

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 1908.

No. 2

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BIRTHS.

On December 20th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. L. SEITZ, a son.
On December 31st, 1907, at 2 Gomes Villa, Mrs. A. W. LAMPER KI, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On December 6th, at St. Peter's Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. J. H. France, Miss LINDA MYER, of Melbourne, Australia, GEORGE to HORACE KING (Lappa Customs).
On December 20th, at Shanghai, HENRY WILLIAM DAINNTY of Colombo, to DAIS KATE, second daughter of the late Robert Law, Shanghai.
On December 21st, at Shanghai, ANDRÉS HANSEN ERIKSEN to EDITH MARY, only daughter of the late William Fowler, of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On December 10th, at Cardiff, THOMAS WILFORD, beloved father of F. C. Wilford, Hongkong, aged 92 years.
On December 10th last, at Klang, Selangor, Malay States, FRANCIS WILLIAM DANBY, eldest son of Wm. Danby of Hongkong, aged 35 years.
On December 26th, 1907, at her residence 13, Rua de Antonio da Silva, the beloved mother of Messrs. Silva and brothers of Hongkong, VICENIA, S. CARNEIRO E SILVA, aged 90 years.
On December 22nd, at Shanghai, HELEN WINIFRED OLSEN, the wife of Joh. A. Olsen, aged 24 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of December 13th arrived, per the s.s. *Derantha*, on Thursday, the 9th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

It is reported from Peking that the Russian Minister has written to the Waiwu, asking for permission to establish a Consulate in Uliassutai, Mongolia, in order to protect Russian interests there.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to the following Ordinances: No. 12 of 1907, entitled—An Ordinance to amend the Local Communities Ordinance, 1899; and No. 13 of 1907, entitled—An Ordinance to limit the imposition of punishment by public exposure in the stocks.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. are in receipt of telegraphic information from Shanghai, advising them that the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. have declared an interim dividend of Tls. 2½ per share for the 6 months ending 31st October, 1907.

The five richsha coolies who were arrested on Jan. 6th for riotous behaviour during the strike were charged before Mr. F. A. Hazland at the Police Court on Jan. 7th, and each man was bound over in the sum of \$100 to be of good behaviour for twelve months.

The deep sympathy of a very wide circle of friends in the Colony and coast ports will be felt for Mr. William Danby on the death of his eldest son, Mr. F. W. Danby, intelligence of which has just been received. Death took place at Klang, Selangor, on the 10th ult.

The attractive time ball tower erected on Signal Hill, Kowloon, and designed by Mr. A. C. Little of the Public Works Department, is now ready for use. It is a fire proof structure, 40 feet in height, and can be seen from almost every part of the harbour.

On January 7th, as the three o'clock p.m. Peak car was descending the steepest gradient between Plantation and Bowen roads, a large dog crossed the rails and was caught by the car which almost overturned. The passengers included several ladies who were very much frightened by the incident. The car wheels cut right through the dog, killing it instantly.

H.M.S. *Tamar* has been a pleasure boat for the children of the Colony during the last few days, Commander and Mrs. Stokes and the officers of that vessel being "at home" to them on board. There was a miniature rifle range, a motor car shoot, and many other things calculated to please the juveniles, while there were many helpers to attend to their wants and see that they had an enjoyable time.

In the short list published in *The Builder* of successful candidates elected to Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects at the last general meeting two Hongkong names appear. Mr. A. H. Ough's election was mentioned in our yesterday's issue. The other successful candidate was Mr. A. C. Little, of the Public Works Department. Mr. Little is a medallist of the Institute and Mr. Ough was formerly an associate member.

A very small man was placed in the dock, and an unusually large Japanese sword, having a blade at least an inch and a half broad, was placed on the table at the Police Court yesterday morning. The man was a juggler, and was charged before Mr. Gompertz with being in possession of arms without a permit. The sword was his means of livelihood, for he earned his daily rice by shoving it down his throat to the hilt. Mr. Gompertz referred the lawbreaker to the Captain Superintendent of Police, and Captain Lyons made things legal by issuing a permit to the juggler to carry the sword.

An Indian constable appeared before Mr. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on Jan. 6th on two charges of obtaining money by false pretences, and one charge of attempting to obtain a sum. The defendant it appears, was on duty at Murray Pier during the holidays, and when a Naval officer appeared to hail a sampan, would tell him that he had paid 5 cents to send a drunken officer off to his ship, and would ask the new arrival to repay him. Twice the trick was successful, but the third time it failed, the failure resulting in the constable's appearance before the Court. The case was remanded.

Prince Ching and Grand Counsellor Yuan Shih-k'ai are said to be conferring daily about starting local self-government councils in the provinces, in order to prepare the people for the Lower House of Parliament.

Jose Maria da Souza, for whose arrest a warrant has been out for some time, was on Jan. 7th brought back to the Colony by Detective-Sergeant Murison, and was charged before Mr. F. A. Hazland at the Police Court with larceny as a bailor. In February, 1905, the defendant was employed in the Hongkong branch of the Indo-China Bank. One day he was given some registered letters, containing altogether \$1503, to post. The defendant it appears, procured some similar envelopes put blank paper in each, addressed them as the original envelopes were addressed, and posted them. With the money which he extracted from the letters he was told to post, he absconded. The Hongkong police, however, traced him to Shanghai where he was detained pending the arrival of Detective-Sergeant Murison. The detective had no difficulty in recognising Souza, who was handed over to him and brought safely to Hongkong. When he heard the evidence yesterday, his Worship sentenced the defendant to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

VILLAGE ELDERS MURDERED.

The story of one of those crimes for which China is so notorious was told to Mr. F. A. Hazland at the Police Court on January 7th, when Mr. G. E. Morrell, of the Crown Solicitor's office, on behalf of the Chinese Government applied for the extradition of a native on a charge of armed robbery. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) represented the defendant.

Mr. Morrell informed his Worship that the accused was charged with armed robbery at Kwai Ling in the Waichow Prefecture. It appeared that the elders of this village had reported the names of all the lawless characters in their district to the authorities, and the defendant's name was included in the list. In consequence, the lawless class threatened to exterminate the elders. On the 9th May, 1906, four elders started off to pay respect to the ancestral tablets in a neighbouring village called Wong Yuen. They proceeded on the journey on foot, a son of one of the elders and a coolie following them, and carrying the food trays. When they got to Kwai Ling, which was half way between the two villages, four men, of whom the defendant was said to be one, jumped from an ambush and seized the elders. When the coolies in the rear saw this they dropped their trays and ran. The robbers pursued them for a distance, but they succeeded in making their escape. They collected help and returned to the place where the robbers had surprised the party. There they found the four dead bodies of the elders, and on returning to the village gave the names of the robbers. In consequence of that report the defendant was arrested in Hongkong.

His Worship—These four men were armed, and were seen to attack the elders?

Mr. Morrell—They all carried revolvers, and were seen to jump out on the four elders and shoot them.

Evidence was then called, and the hearing adjourned.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION OR THE COUNTRY CLUB?

(Daily Press, 6th January.)

The Shanghai branch of the China Association has in the last two or three months been variously criticised for the telegram that inspired Mr. R. S. GUNDRY's famous letter to the Foreign Office. One or two Home papers, judging *prima facie*, have suggested that the letter did not harmonize with English notions of fair-play, and its publication was scarcely in accordance with the customary amenities of public life. Papers in North China have gone even further, and have made statements at which others scarcely dared even to hint. It may be remembered that about the end of October we reproduced from the *North China Daily News* some comments which included the remark that the step taken by the China Association had "a harsh ring about it," and the not very ingenuous words, "It will be noted that the China Association has not put forward any candidate of its own." Any reader who has carefully followed all our references to the subject of the Inspector-Generalship, ever since Sir ROBERT HART's retirement began to be talked about, and that is a long while ago, will know that on more than one occasion we have hinted very plainly that there were and have been all along, rival candidates for the position, and it would be too stupid to suppose that the claims of one have never inspired objections to the claim of another. We do not suggest that the China Association has a candidate for whose appointment it is unanimous. We happen to know that the Shanghai branch was not even unanimous in sending the much criticised telegram. The Hongkong branch is not so keen on the business as the Shanghai branch, for the simple reason that it is not familiar with all the issues involved, the *sub rosa* issues as well as the obvious imperial issues; and it follows the Shanghai branch, when it does follow, from loyalty to the general aim of the whole Association. If Mr. J. O. P. BLAND is ambitious to succeed Sir ROBERT HART, or Mr. JAMIESON, or Mr. AGLEN, Mr. HIPPLEY, or Mr. BRAZIER, the Hongkong members are not so seriously agitated about these candidates as their Shanghai colleagues may be. They might be caught more by the glamour of the name of Lord CURZON of Kedleston, which has actually been whispered in this connection. In the meantime we do not care to be more explicit; all we desire is that our readers should not be misled into supposing that there is no competition for the position, or that the opposition to "the natural successor to Sir ROBERT HART" (the *N.-C. Daily News*' phrase) is wholly based on a unanimous belief that Sir ROBERT BREDON is not qualified to succeed. We may have to go into the question of this competition later, but as Sir ROBERT HART has no immediate intention of resigning, the question does not at present really arise. It is almost certain that he will go on leave this Spring, and Sir ROBERT BREDON will become, as a matter of course, the acting chief of the Imperial Maritime Customs. The Shanghai branch of the China Association has already protested, or induced Mr. GUNDRY to protest, against his permanent appointment. This gives us the right to speculate as to the causes of that gentleman's obvious unpopularity in certain quarters. We are not so much shocked as some of our contemporaries have been at the attacks made upon him for we know that human nature is very much alike behind the scenes, whether the

stage be Shanghai, the Customs, or the China Association itself. Even kings and mayors have their human littlenesses, their petty dislikes, and to be concerned with affairs of imperial moment does not necessarily make a man immune from the emotions and behaviour following natural antipathies. Sir ROBERT BREDON happens to be one of those superior men who present sharp elbows to their envying fellows. Like the Irishman at Donnybrook who had only to see a head to aim a blow at it, Sir ROBERT BREDON has "only to see what he considers a fault to denounce it. Without considering the susceptibilities of others, he points out error almost as if he relishes the job. The type is not uncommon. We have often met it, and always we have noticed how it has missed much that more genial characters receive. It is at least not selfishly calculating. In its blind devotion to accuracy and correctness, it sacrifices all the popularity that a little more suavity would easily secure. At the meetings of the Country Club at Shanghai, Sir ROBERT BREDON was ever a caustic critic. He has lifted up his voice also at the Shanghai Club, when the time came to heckle the committee; and not infrequently at company meetings he has given the directors a bad quarter of an hour. Is that not sufficient to explain some part of the Shanghai hostility to his appointment? It seems to us unnecessary to point out that at a meeting of the Shanghai branch of the China Association there would be members of the Country Club, and one or two directors. Verily, sap. That cantankerousness of his, however, does not necessarily make him a bad Deputy Inspector-General of Customs, and so the China Association will have to produce some grounds for their protest. All we can find in Mr. GUNDRY's letter is a mere suggestion that Sir ROBERT BREDON does not enjoy the confidence and esteem of the foreign Legations and of the members of the service itself. It is extremely improbable that anything like a plebiscite can have been taken as to that, and in the absence of such information, Mr. GUNDRY was led into making a very sweeping suggestion. He himself admitted in the famous letter that no one was "likely to command the unanimous assent of the many diverse interests concerned." The Customs staff is a cosmopolitan one; the China Association is British in its aims: can it be that Sir ROBERT BREDON's administration would not be regarded as sufficiently British? It is not unlikely, but then the same criticism has been launched against Sir ROBERT HART, and with equal reason, notwithstanding that Mr. GUNDRY makes such a handsome admission of Sir ROBERT HART's commanding personality. On the vexed question of how far the Inspector-General should be pro-British and anti-Chinese it profits not at present to dwell. As a newspaper in a cosmopolitan community, though in a British Colony, our sympathies are inevitably more divided than those of the China Association. Taking the point of view of that Association, however, we cannot help agreeing with numerous other critics, both public and private, that the letter of Mr. GUNDRY, and still more the Shanghai telegram, so indiscreetly published by the *Standard*, was a tactless error, calculated to alarm the Chinese Government, and to make it more stubborn than ever in insisting upon its right of selecting a man upon whose loyalty to its salt it can depend, as it has been able to depend upon Sir ROBERT HART, who, by the way, has been a sore disappointment to the China Association on many occasions.

DR. MORRISON'S SPEECH.

(Daily Press, January 7th.)

The after-dinner speech of Dr. MORRISON to the China Association in London has made a sensation since, if it did not palpably do so at the time. Perhaps if the famous correspondent had been addressing the members of a branch, rather than the members of the central Association, he might not have been given so patient a hearing. There is no doubt that cold-drawn extract of *tu quoque* in the Morrisonian manner is not palatable, and we have usually been at a loss for a subject before we have, on rare occasions, adopted that line of argument. It is, of course, an easy one to take, and seems more telling than it perhaps would be under analysis. It is certainly difficult to answer, and that is doubtless why no speaker ventured to follow Dr. MORRISON's ironic outburst with any sort of a rejoinder. From the point of view of the Association, we ourselves considered it best left unanswered, but others have not thought the same. One writer on Chinese topics has attacked Dr. MORRISON's position with considerable energy. He writes:

"In regard to a large number of national shortcomings, the comparison is not one of principle but of degree. There are certain national faults which will be found in existence more or less everywhere and with regard to them, the question is not whether a given nation is entirely free from them while another shows that it is subject to them, but the extent and often even the manner in which they are found in the one or the other. To say that it is of no great consequence that there is corruption among Chinese officials because there are many European nations among whom the same shortcoming is to be found is but a poor excuse for the universal venality, which the Chinese themselves so much complain of. It would be an answer if it were shown that the corruption in question was not much more extensive than that which is to be found in most other countries, or in any which can claim to be reasonably well governed. In the same way to point out that we need not complain of the faultiness of the Chinese judicial system including the convenient method of eliciting evidence by torture, because occasionally there are serious miscarriages of justice in thoroughly civilised countries, is after all perhaps clever badinage, but certainly not serious argument. The best of human laws are liable at times to prove defective, but this forms no excuse for the continued use in the present day of torture or a resort to barbarous punishments, which many of the most enlightened Chinese Statesmen still hold to be necessary for the maintenance of order."

The writer goes on to argue that the real matter for comparison is not one of conduct but of standards, a point we have dealt with before. It is almost equally liable to the *tu quoque*, when any race is under criticism. He regrets that so good an authority as Dr. MORRISON should have resorted to such an *ad captandum* line of argument, and confesses that "it is somewhat trying to a Britisher's patience to be told in almost so many words that his country is nearly as corrupt as China because during the rush and push of a war, some unscrupulous men took the opportunity to line their pockets at the expense of the commissariat." "We," he said, "who knew how high were the administrative ideals both in this country and in America, who remembered how unscathed we emerged from those amazing enquiries into the expenditure in connection with some of our

recent wars, naturally condemned administrative methods in China that were not up to our standard.' The satire is pungent and would be telling, but for the slight difference which was perhaps excusably overlooked in an after dinner speech, that the corruption in question took place under totally exceptional and hurried conditions, and was rigidly enquired into—while that in China (if the Chinese themselves are to be believed) is perennial, and is recognised and encouraged at headquarters."

Surely it is a little too much to say, even of Mandarinism, that it encourages official peculations. What the writer means is probably that one Chinese official does not denounce another for such dishonesty, that dog does not eat dog. But even there have foreigners the right to claim such infinite superiority? We would like to think so, but with numerous cases of "hushing up" in mind, we have to admit that even there the Chinese are only showing the same consideration of class for class. Sometimes we have no mercy on those of our number who disgrace us by being found out, but then, the Chinese can claim that much. On the sale of rank the writer quoted is manifestly unhappy. He says that Dr. MORRISON was as "far from the mark (as he of all people must well have known) in comparing the sales of 'rank' in China to the dignities which are conferred at home (albeit perhaps, a little too liberally) upon 'non-descript capitalists of alien origin, whose entry into their ranks was adding so greatly to the dignity and prestige of our hereditary aristocracy.' There is no particular reason why wealth as well as any other power in the state should not be recognised in the House of Lords, or otherwise, but bankers, brewers, or other capitalists, who receive such distinction don't pay the Government or the King for conferring dignities upon them." What does it matter whom they pay—to the Party fund, or to some person with interest? It is all the more discreditable the more it is *sub rosa*. It is a very weak answer, indeed, and would much better have been left unattempted. More to the point is his reminder that two wrongs do not make a right, but then Dr. MORRISON never suggested that they did. All he was doing was to give the China Association a modern version of the mote and beam parable, a lesson which, in view of our remarks yesterday, was perhaps not untimely.

DIVIDED CHINA.

(Daily Press, January 8th.)

There is a good deal more than appears on the surface in the carefully planned outcry against the proposed foreign loan for the construction of the Soochow-Ningpo railway. It is, in fact, a recrudescence of the old revolt of the provincials against the central Government, in which the foreign element, though forced into the foreground, plays really but a second part. In this the point at issue bears in its external aspect a remarkable likeness to the dispute of old days over the Lay-Osborn Flotilla. Was it to be Imperial, or under the orders and control of the provincial viceroys? There is little doubt, reviewing the subsequent course of events, that the arrangement between Prince KUNG and Mr. H. N. LAY, then Inspector General, was that the fleet intended for imperial purposes was to be under solely imperial control; and that Prince KUNG, when the matter was explained to him thoroughly, understood the advantage to the central Government of having such a powerful force at its back in the sempiternal conflict between provinces and capital.

There was never any suspicion in the minds of the British Foreign Office that Mr. LAY's conduct in the affair had been otherwise than perfectly straightforward, or that he had wilfully misrepresented his orders. When, however Mr. LAY and Captain SHERARD OSBORNE, the officer appointed with the consent of the British Government to take command of the fleet, arrived with the ships in China, another condition of affairs was seen. The powerful Nanking Viceroy repudiated the whole affair, and insisted on his right to control the ships while within his territorial jurisdiction. Before the departure of the fleet from home, Mr. LAY had drawn up a formal letter of Agreement with Capt. SHERARD OSBORNE in which, amongst other stipulations, it was expressly mentioned that OSBORNE, as Commander in Chief, was to have entire control over all vessels of European construction, as well as native vessels manned by Europeans; that OSBORNE undertook to act upon all orders of the Emperor which might be conveyed direct to LAY; and that OSBORNE engaged not to attend to any orders conveyed through any other channel. This agreement, it seems, was conveyed to Prince KUNG in the first instance, and not objected to. The emergency was pressing, and Prince KUNG was prepared to agree to anything. Within the year affairs had changed, KUNG had retired from his active position as head of the Foreign Office, and a high official, WEN SIANG, has been appointed in his stead. Thanks to Colonel GORDON the Imperial arms had been successful in Kiangnan, and the Viceroy, taking the credit on himself, had become more haughty in his demands. Accordingly a new proposal was made, and LAY was represented as having asked for the appointment of a Commander in Chief and Prince KUNG was led to write that he had memorialised the Throne that the officer "already appointed by the Governor General of the Ling Kiang should be appointed Commander of the Fleet, with OSBORNE as Assistant." However open to cavil might have been LAY's first scheme, this counter-proposal was so utterly opposed to anything that could be accepted that it left no chink open for negotiation, and the result was that LAY had to resign, and the Fleet was dismantled. Sir FREDERICK BRUCE, then Minister at Peking, might have helped, but he was no friend to LAY, as his subsequent dispatch shows, and threw in his influence against him. Sir FREDERICK acknowledges that the affair did not fail through foreign intrigues, the other Powers raising no objection, but gives as his explanation—the opposition of the provincial authorities, the reluctance of Peking to assume the responsibility of directing operations, and "above all the alarm and suspicion engendered by the proposals," which would have given excessive power to Mr. LAY.

Now there is up to a certain point considerable resemblance between the position then and the present, but with this essential difference, that Peking has since seen many times how great was the mistake made in weakly yielding to the demands of the provincials, and permitting the recrudescence of the dual administration which had brought the Empire at the time to the verge of destruction. From the merely financial outlook Peking is well content with the railways already built: they have required no heroic effort on the part of the Government to finance; this has been accomplished of the foreign syndicates concerned which have in all cases found the capital sums required, and have arranged for repayment on sufficiently easy terms, so

that without expenditure Peking finds itself in possession of a goodly revenue, which is moreover gradually progressing as the amortisation proceeds. More than all from a native point of view, except merely to see to the upkeep of the lines, which Peking is wise enough to see is to its own advantage, the interference of the syndicates is of the very slightest; indeed the control of the lines may be said to rest in nearly every particular in the hands of the native directors, even to a degree disadvantageous to the working of the lines, owing to the lack of experience on the part of the native staffs. Now it is noteworthy in the present contention, that while the Anglo-Chinese Syndicate has all through the controversy been willing to retire on the most reasonable terms, the upholding of the agreement has fallen on the British Minister, who on the subject is perfectly at one with the Chinese Government. The opposition has, in fact, not come from any section of the Chinese Government itself, which has the commonsense to see that it has made a remarkably good bargain not only for itself but for the Empire at large. This, in fact, is what galls SHENG KUNG-PAO and the other wire-pullers of the pretended patriotic opposition, whose sole object is to get the making of the line into their own hands for the purpose of exploiting it to their own profit. However Peking may incline towards the Syndicate from the merely monetary aspect, we should not be justified in assuming that this is the sole reason that influences it in the affair, nor is it fair to China's present statesmen to suggest that they have no feeling of responsibility for the general well being of the State. This, however, is what SHENG KUNG-PAO and his admirers would have us believe. Men like Their Excellencies CHANG and YUAN, who have passed through the provincial furnace, are well aware how much mischief has been wrought by the former indifference of Peking in the general superintendence of inter-provincial affairs, and the consequent weakening of China through being split up into so many practically independent units; and are quite alive to the dangers to be encountered should the control of the railway interest fall into the same state of chaos as did the general government in the first half of the nineteenth century. This is, however, what such mock patriots as SHENG KUNG-PAO and his associates are intriguing for, and it requires little knowledge of statescraft to comprehend how dangerous to the interests of the nation at large would be a return to the evil days when each petty provincial was a law unto himself, and the power of control from disuse had become practically atrophied. We may learn a lesson as to the necessity of a strong central power from the recent history of the United States, where the Government has lately had to take strong measures to override the conflicting methods of the various states with regard to this very matter of inter-state railways.

Another old China hand in the person of Mr. T. G. Gowland, of Amoy, bade farewell to the Far East this week after a sojourn of thirty years. Mr. Gowland was formerly in partnership with Mr. H. P. White in the Formosan firm of Dodd and Co., and latterly he has for many years been associated with the well known Amoy tea firm of Geo. H. Macy & Co. A gentleman in every sense of the word, Mr. Gowland was respected and esteemed by all who knew him—and he was well known all along the China Coast from Hongkong to Shanghai. Mr. and Mrs. Gowland and their two children, who come down from Amoy to Hongkong last Saturday are travelling home by the *Wakasa Maru*.

PATRIOTIC CURRICULA.

(Daily Press, January 9th.)

Lord MEATH has asked us to point out to our readers that the "Empire Movement," with which his name is particularly associated, is by no means solely a matter of celebrating the 24th of May. That day for rest and remembrance is a secondary matter compared with the main object of the movement, which is the systematic training of children in all the qualities and virtues which tend towards good citizenship. His Lordship does not want a single British child to have "a soul so dead" as not to feel a thrill at the reflection that he or she has a native land, entailing recognition of the need of individual "responsibility, duty, sympathy, and self-sacrifice." Lord MEATH has perhaps a higher conception of patriotism than have some of those supporting his movement. In his letter to us he asks us to appeal for support to every British subject, "whatever be his race or colour," and particularly that we should recommend the adoption in our local schools of what he calls the "Empire Catechism." We cannot conscientiously urge this course, but we will give our readers an idea of its contents, and leave them to decide as they feel inclined. The first answer our scholars are invited to give is this: "I am a subject of King EDWARD, and a citizen of the British Empire." We can imagine a row of embryo citizens of the British Empire, including (say) a pigtailed Hongkong boy, a turbaned child of Hind, a son of a British merchant, and a long legged scion of White Australia. It would be quite feasible to get all four to repeat that thrilling speech with more unction than a parrot; perhaps even each would feel its thrill on occasion. Coming out of school, however, if they were very intelligent boys, with well-informed parents, we could also imagine them discussing such matters as the expulsion of Indians from South Africa, the exclusion of Chinese from Australia, and the alleged new preferential tariff of the last named Colony. Their joint citizenship, surely, would undergo a strain. When a British subject, "whatever be his race or colour," can settle unmolested and free in any part of the British Empire; when the oneness of that Empire is manifested by free trade (not alleged "preference") between all its parts, then it may be time to encourage Lord MEATH's pretty dream, and his educational methods. At present the Empire seems too big to be managed on Utopian lines; but its very bigness is the subject of rejoicing in the fourth answer in the Catechism. It (the British Empire) has twelve million square miles, equal to one-fifth or 21 per cent of the Earth's surface (one can see the little citizens growing pigeon-chested with patriotism, if not chauvinism, as they answer) and that is a greater area than any other State can claim, even Russia and the United States coming short of such glory. If the young citizens are as good at mental arithmetic as they ought to be, they will do a little sum in division when they have recited the answer to the seventh question. King EDWARD has four hundred million subjects, so that means that on a fair division each individual subject could have over nineteen acres to live on and wrest a living from. Much of the twelve million miles would not be suitable, however, for anything but an ascetic crew, so the intelligent young citizen will divide it by half, and say there is over nine acres per head. To make sure, and feeling reckless and generous in the midst of such plenty, he will divide once more, and reduce the individual acreage to four, and will say to himself that

every family of five may, if King EDWARD be willing, riot luxuriously, beyond any mathematical doubt whatever, on its own estate of twenty fertile acres! The balance of fifteen times four hundred million acres can stand over for sportsmen to play in. How fascinating is Lord MEATH's kind of lesson, and how it makes the heart of the young citizen swell with joy at so glorious a heritage. At the tenth answer, however, the youngster fails to see why mere numbers should be so thrilling. London has 4,648,950 inhabitants, and he has heard that some thousands of those are being sweated in slums, slaving many hours a day for just enough, or barely enough, to eat and build up sufficient stamina to continue the grisly round, the demitition grind. Calcutta has 910,117 inhabitants, most of them worshipping KERR HARDIE and dying of plague. Sydney has 511,030, and the young White Australian says (turning to the pigtailed Hongkong boy) "There are slums there, and thousands of white people starving, and your countrymen wanting to come in and take the bread out of their mouths." Johannesburg (still the tenth answer continues its patriotic poem) has 155,642, and the boy from India gives a start, having been inattentive, dreaming perhaps of the Jewel in the Lotus, and edging away from his fellow citizens, he mutters something about the rights of his countrymen settled in South Africa. But the lesson grows long and irksome; let us sympathise with our schoolboys, and incidentally save space, by jumping to the 29th answer of the Catechism, part of which is obviously meant to make every little citizen, "whatever be his race or colour," jump with joy and grovel with gratitude. "May 24th," it says, "was the birthday of the late good Queen Victoria, during whose reign of 63 years the Empire grew to its present greatness, as year by year her people increased in health, strength, numbers, wealth, and happiness." No, no, Lord MEATH. Really you must excuse us yet awhile. Your Catechism may be all right for the lower Forms at Eton or Rugby, or even schools ranging between Cheltenham and Giggleswick; but for the majority of your little citizens, trudging to day-school with their insufficiently filled tummies and badly nourished brains, we do not believe that those references to their general health, strength, wealth, and happiness will carry conviction. We do not know, any better than your Lordship does, how to remedy the various evils sketchily referred to; but we do feel that true patriotism, abiding patriotism, cannot be inculcated by shutting our eyes and shouting that sort of hallelujah. Teach them "responsibility," yes, but let them see all that they are responsible for—teach them their "duty," certainly; but do not our blemishes constitute the first call to duty?—inculcate "sympathy," we are with you there; but is not the other side of the shield conducive thereto?—and "self-sacrifice," the last of your watchwords—Heaven help the poor creatures! Has there not been enough of that?

ASIATIC IMMIGRANTS.

(Daily Press, January 10th.)

The mischief of the immigration trouble between Japan and the United States is this, that even if the two Governments amicably arrange a restrictive policy, they cannot carry it in a full effect by their own efforts. Japan appears honestly intent on arranging a *modus vivendi* with both Canada and the United States, and the Govern-

ments of those two territories are disposed to give Japan as much "rope" as their constituents will permit. It appears that in the result all the Governments are comparatively helpless, and that before there can be complete satisfaction all round, some arrangement on a far wider basis will have to be made. For instance, the Government of Mexico will have to co-operate. With respect to Chinese immigrants, it looks as if they were already doing so. The coolie trade from here to Mexico is at present practically at a standstill, the medical representative of the Mexican Government in Hongkong having been refusing about eighty per cent of the Chinese coolies who present themselves as emigrants for the ships leaving here for Salina Cruz. Ostensibly, these rejections are being made on the ground of an infectious eye-affection, but it has been suggested to us that it is not improbable that the Mexican Government has been approached by the United States with regard to the steady exodus of its imported labourers across the border into American territory. It is certain that Mexico would not refuse so many emigrants without sufficient reason, as there is a big and steady demand for labour there. If it should prove that the Mexican authorities are amenable to requests from Washington, it is safe to prophesy that they will soon be taking a hand in the American-Japanese negotiations regarding Asiatic immigration. According to our latest information, Japanese are pouring across the Mexican border into America in "thousands." These are for the most part men imported to work on the Mexican railways. It is admitted that the Japanese Government is scrupulously adhering to the agreement it made with the United States, and refusing passports to any of its subjects of the labouring class that will allow them to go to the mainland of the United States, but so far it has had no occasion to refuse passports to labourers ostensibly going to work in Mexico. These do go to Mexico, but once there the mysterious attraction of the American States, probably the notoriously high wages of the Western States, pulls them toward the Rio Grande, and they are not long in finding their way over. The American Bureau of Immigration has inspectors stationed along the border, but it is obviously impossible without a large army to guard adequately hundreds of miles of river-bank and desert. The Japanese are believed to get and study road maps of the country, and to be informed of places where, after crossing, their own countrymen will help them. Once inside, under present arrangements, they are safe, so far as the Immigration Bureau is concerned, as Japanese residents are not registered for identification as are the Chinese. Something of the same sort is said to be happening on the northern boundaries also. The New York Tribune declares that the immigration laws are powerless to check the flow from Canada southwards. "Hundreds of the Japanese who arrived during the present year at Canadian ports had no intention to settle in Canada, but found it easy to slip across the Canadian frontier into the States, and accordingly preferred to travel via the Dominion. Realizing this fact, the authorities have recently been in communication with the Canadian Government, the result being that increased vigilance has been exercised." It is obvious that some wider international arrangements are called for.

We learn by mail, from an unconfirmed source, that the new tramway manager at Shanghai will be a Mr. Carrall, at present managing a system in south east London.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Jan. 7th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Dr. F. Clark, (Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Captain Lyons (Captain Superintendent of Police), Colonel Martin, R.A.M.C., Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

NEW MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT—Before commencing the business of the meeting I wish to introduce to you Colonel Martin, the new P.M.O., and on your behalf to welcome him as a member of the Board.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

The following letter was read from Messrs Palmer and Turner applying for modifications of section 180 (a) and 188 (5) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903:—

Dar Sirs,—Herewith we submit plans showing the proposed manner of rebuilding the southern portion of the Hongkong Hotel. On June 29, 1905, we were informed by the Assistant Secretary of the Sanitary Board that the Governor-in-Council granted a modification of the requirements of section 180 (a) and 188 (5) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903, in accordance with sketch plans we had submitted for approval just previously. The height of the building as now proposed is the same as shown on the plans then submitted. We should be glad to know if we may consider if the modification of the section 188 (5) as already obtained is still valid. As regards section 180 (a) the arrangement of the new plan has been considerably altered. We are instructed to apply to the Sanitary Board to recommend a modification of this section so as to allow of the open spaces on the ground and first floor being curtailed below the requirements of the Ordinance as shown in the accompanying plans. We beg to point out that the ground floor is not to be used at all for sleeping purposes. The frontage of the block is occupied entirely by shops which are well lighted and ventilated from the front and (with the exception of one shop) from the back. The rest of this floor is to be used as a godown, store, baggage, boiler and engine room the portion of the yard deemed to be covered over, for the use of receiving and unpacking goods. The first floor with the exception of one bedroom attached to the private suite is not to be used for sleeping purposes. The other rooms comprising reading, smoking, billiard, and bar rooms are all well lighted and ventilated. The cloak and sewing rooms are to be ten feet in height and the portion shown as a covered yard is required as a wasing up yard. The other upper floors are utilized for bedrooms and the open space for each floor is considerably in excess of the requirements of the Ordinance. All the bedrooms have been arranged as far as possible so as to get thorough ventilation from the air spaces both back and front, and we think the Board will recognise that the arrangement of the new plan is an improvement on the plan which was sanctioned in 1905. The area of the building on each floor and the area of the open and unobstructed spaces is the same as marked on the plan.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH minuted—I recommend the plans be approved as far as they concern the Board.

Mr. HOOPER—I agree with the Medical Officer of Health.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Is there more air space or less than was approved in 1905?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH submitted a table showing that the open air space in 1905 amounted to 29,880 square feet, and on the new plan it amounted to 32,206 square feet.

The PRESIDENT moved that the modifications be granted subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council.

Mr. HOOPER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

OUR WATER.

The report of Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, on samples of water from the

Kowloon, Tytam and Pokfulam services showed that in each case there was no sewage and the water was of excellent quality.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality returns for the week ended December 7 showed that there were 136 deaths, being 21.5 per 1,000 of the whole Colony, as against 23.5 for the previous week and 22.3 for the corresponding period last year. Of the deaths 34 were from chest affections and 22 from fevers (Malaria 11). For the week ended December 14 there were 154 deaths, being 24.3 per 1,000 of the whole Colony, as against 20.7 for the corresponding week last year. Forty-seven deaths were due to chest affections, eight to fever and five each to dysentery and diarrhoea.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return for last year was laid on the table, and it is interesting to note that although more rats were caught fewer were plague infected. In 1907, 25,265 rats were caught in Hongkong and 13,255 in Kowloon, a total of 38,520, of which 28 were plague infected. In the preceding year 30,701 were caught, of which 679 were plague infected. For the first four days this year the 466 rats caught were all free of plague.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday January 6th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A SUMMONS DISMISSED.

In the matter of an arbitration between the Kwong Tung Chuen and the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., the Corporation of the Royal Exchange Insurance and the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co., and in the matter of the Hongkong Code of Civil Procedure.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs in the issue, who were defendants in the original action. He said he would remind his Lordship briefly of the course which this matter had taken. His Lordship, on referring to the file, would find that the originating summons was taken out as far back as March 16th, 1907. It was an application made on behalf of a man called Kwong Tung-chuen for leave to enforce an award dated 2nd October 1906 in the matter of an arbitration between himself and certain insurance companies mentioned in the originating summons. His Lordship would find on the file the award which was made by Messrs. A. R. Lowe and H. A. Lammert as arbitrators, and if he referred to it he would see that the arbitrators found as a fact that certain articles which Kwong Tung-chuen, the party insured, had deposited to as being on the premises prior to the fire, were not there. His Lordship would remember that the arbitrators did not go into the question of whether that was a matter of fraud or not. A clause on the insurance policy stated that if a man made any false statement in respect of a claim, he was to be debarred from recovering under that policy. Mr. Master's affidavit, filed in support of the present application, showed certain correspondence which had passed between his firm and Mr. Goldring.

His Lordship—Are you moving for attachment?

Mr. Pollock—I am moving that the originating summons be dismissed, but it is possible the order your Lordship should make would be that judgment should be given for us on the issue.

His Lordship—I think that would be it.

Mr. Pollock—Perhaps it is a more appropriate order to make. Continuing, Counsel said that Mr. Master's affidavit of January 4th set forth certain correspondence which showed that continual communication had been held with Messrs. Goldring and Barlow from the 3rd July to 9th January, and also that notice had been given to the defendants that this matter would come on before the Court to-day. Mr. Goldring was in Court, but had no instructions with reference to the matter.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs on the issue with costs.

CLAIM FOR RICE.

The Cheung Hing firm of rice merchants sued the Wo On Sai Chan firm, traders, to recover the sum of \$119.18 due for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Johnson (of Messrs. Denny and Bowley) for the defendants.

Mr. Slade, after reading the pleadings, stated that it was apparently not really shown what defence the defendants intended to put up. The defendant was really Tsang King, the big contractor, and he had filed an affidavit in which he said that the Wo On Sai Chan was in charge of a manager who had no authority from him to buy rice. The manager had authority only to take goods into the godown, and to collect rents from property belonging to Tsang King. Counsel would prove that the plaintiff firm first dealt with the Wo On Sai Chan in 1894, some thirteen years ago, that rice was then sold and delivered to the Wo On Sai Chan, and that the same shop used on the transactions on which they were suing, was then used. The next dealings they could prove were some which took place in 1905, when the present manager of the plaintiff firm was in charge. He would tell the Court that he was informed rice was being bought for Tsang King to enable the latter to feed his coolies and the men employed by him on different contracts. Rice was delivered in 1905 and paid for; the deliveries in 1906 were paid for; but the rice which was the subject of this suit, and which was delivered in 1907 in the same way was not paid for. It appeared from a letter written to them by Messrs. Denny and Bowley that the manager of the Wo On Sai Chan absconded early in June of last year. There was now on the same premises as the Wo On Sai Chan firm a firm called Wo On Sai Chung, but when the plaintiffs dealt with defendants that sign was not up. It had been erected recently. The hearing was adjourned.

Tuesday, January 7th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM FOR RICE.

The case concluded in which the Cheung Hing firm of rice merchants sued the Wo On Sai Chan firm, traders, to recover \$119.18 due for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Johnson (of Messrs. Denny and Bowley) for the defendants.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, remarking that they could not be presumed to know the limitations of the godown keeper who had been allowed to purchase rice before, and on which purchases payment had been made.

Wednesday, January 8th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

APPEAL FROM A DECISION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

Judgment was delivered on the appeal from a decision of his Honour the Chief Justice delivered on May 6th in which he found in favour of Messrs. Carlows & Co. the respondents in the present case. The appellants are the Lombard Steamship Co., Ltd. Sir Henry Berkeley, instructed by Mr. H. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Denny, Looker and Deacon) represented the appellants, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the respondents.

The Chief Justice—This case was tried before me in April and May of last year, and the appeal was argued before the Full Court on 16th December. The learned Counsel for the appellants referred to the fact that under the

constitution of the Courts in this Colony the only appeal Court from the trial in the first instance is to a Court in which the Judge who tried the case sits, and if he is the Chief Justice he has the preponderant voice. It is not surprising that reference should so frequently be made to this fact; but so far as I am concerned I wish to say that in giving judgment in a case tried before me, I endeavour to be guided by the language used by Mr. Justice Blackstone in a very old case indeed: "My present opinion is (but liable to correction upon more full consideration, if the question should come again before the Court in a more solemn way)" I trust that this will, to some extent, not exactly encourage appeals from my decisions, but at least assure the profession that I endeavour, as far as possible, to look at the case from a fresh standpoint, if such is put before the Full Court on more solemn arbitration. Now in this case there was a fresh standpoint put forward; but before dealing with it, I desire to say that this was eminently a case in which a second argument was rightly put before the Court, quite apart from the fact that it has produced a difference of opinion between the Judges. The case is exceedingly puzzling; and all I can say is that, if people will tangle themselves up in so Gordian a fashion, they must not be surprised if this entanglement in lieu of cutting the knot is an expensive process. The facts are sufficiently set out in the report of the case in the Court, and I need not recapitulate them. I shall only refer to the first part of it with which the appellant quarrels. In my judgment in the Court below I said: "The case stands thus: Were the circumstances such as to entitle the United States to rescind its contract with Ostacia, and so entitle that Company to rescind its contract with Carlowitz, and so entitle Carlowitz to rescind their contract with the owners?" It now transpires that one important fact was omitted here from consideration: that the first rescission was by Ostacia of the contract with Carlowitz, that then Carlowitz rescinded; and that this occurred prior to the rescission of the United States Government which occurred five days afterwards, and was apparently independent of the rescission by Ostacia and Carlowitz. There was therefore no rescission en suite as I had assumed, and the question is whether Carlowitz could rescind independently of any action by the United States. The contractual relationship arising out of the charter party still existed between Carlowitz and the owners; it was not broken by the sub-charter to Ostacia, still less by the re-charter by Ostacia to the United States; and it was urged that all the consequences of this relationship must ensue, including the right to rescind for good cause. I am of opinion for the reasons given in my judgment, that the failure to deliver the vessel every day during the continuance of the charter party entitled the charterer to rescind it, and did not give rise merely to an action for damages. The question resolves itself therefore into this:—Can it be said that in the circumstances which actually happened there was a failure to deliver the vessel to the charterers, i.e., to them through the United States Government? The United States Government had not definitely renounced all hope of getting the ship in spite of these threats of cancellation, and therefore it might be said that the charterers had not definitely renounced all hope; but did that therefore deprive them of all right to act? Even this does not state the position quite accurately. Carlowitz cancelled with the owners because Ostacia had cancelled with them, reporting the cause—the failure to deliver. Can it be said that Carlowitz was bound to enquire further into the circumstances to see if Ostacia's cancellation was justified? The position can be put in this way:—Were Carlowitz bound to wait till the United States Government cancelled? Or was that firm entitled to act and take the consequences? Much light may be thrown upon the question if we consider what the position of Ostacia was with regard to the United States Government and the question as to this may be stated in a similar way:—Was Ostacia bound to wait till the United States Government cancelled? Or was that firm entitled to act and take the consequences? In the circumstances—endless delay in putting the ship at the service of the United States Government, and threats

of cancellation—I am very strongly of opinion that they were entitled to act and take the consequences. These consequences might have been, if the United States had renounced, and ultimately decided to take the vessel on again, that there would have been no ship at all at their disposal, for the owners might have sent her elsewhere—directly the charter party was cancelled. The result would have been an action for damages for breach of the agreement. In the event the United States Government did cancel so that there were no consequences. Being therefore of opinion that Ostacia could act I am also of opinion that Carlowitz was entitled to act. The whole question appears to me to turn on the fact that there was no sub-charter by Ostacia to the United States Government, but an independent agreement itself giving rise to rights and duties between the parties and, it must specially be noted, an agreement which really has no legal connection in the Carlowitz charter party for it contemplated an extension of the hire of the vessel beyond the time covered even by Carlowitz's extended term. I think this is an important matter on which stress has not been laid sufficiently, for the whole of these occurrences might have happened after the termination of the charter party and I cannot see how the position of affairs as between Ostacia and the United States Government can vary accordingly as the Ostacia-Carlowitz charter was in existence or not. I agree to this:—That so far as the owners are concerned Carlowitz stands in the same position as Ostacia, and that so far as Ostacia is concerned Carlowitz stands in the same position as the owners, but this shows that the rights we have to consider are rights arising out of the charter party and not out of an independent contract, to which although all parties knew all about it Carlowitz were not in fact parties. This can best be tested by asking the question—Could the United States Government have sued either Carlowitz or the owners? I think not. The fact therefore being that the ship was not delivered I think this justified Ostacia in cancelling in virtue of rights arising out of the charter party, quite regardless of what its position would have been vis à vis the United States Government, and as Ostacia's cancellation was right so Carlowitz's cancellation must have been right. I therefore, think that the judgment should stand and the appeal be dismissed with costs.

The Puisne Judge—I regret to disagree with the judgment of the learned Chief Justice, and I will simply content myself by stating that I think Carlowitz was not entitled to cancel at the time they did. Therefore I think the appeal should be allowed, and supposing it to be allowed, the question of the amounts due by the parties will be a matter for further consideration.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

PAID BY MISTAKE

The Ng Yuen Ying firm brought action against the Lap Kee firm to recover the sum of \$5,000, the amount paid to the defendants by mistake in respect of a bill of exchange.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Daniels (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendants.

Mr. Slade read the statement of claim as follows:—The plaintiffs are merchants carrying on business at 64, Bonham Strand West. The defendants are merchants carrying on business at 316 Des Voeux Road Central. The plaintiffs in addition to their business as merchants carry on a bill discounting business and for that purpose have as agents in Amoy in the Empire of China a firm known as the Wing Fung firm. On the 12th February, 1907, the plaintiffs received a telegram purporting to come from the said Wing Fung firm requesting them to pay to the defendants the sum of \$5,000 in respect of a bill of exchange on Samarang, purchased in Amoy. Shortly afterwards on the 12th February, 1907, the defendants demanded payment of \$5,000 from

the plaintiffs stating that they had been requested by telegram to receive the said sum on behalf of the Kin Hing firm of Amoy. Later, on the 12th February, after the receipt of a further telegram purporting to come from the said Wing Fung firm, and on further application by the defendants the plaintiffs paid to the defendants the sum of \$5,000.

The said \$5,000 was paid to, and received by, the defendants under mistaken belief common to both plaintiffs and defendants that the said Wing Fung firm as agents for the plaintiffs had purchased from the said Kin Hing firm a bill of exchange on Samarang, and that the plaintiffs were indebted to the said Kin Hing firm in the sum of \$5,000 and that the said telegrams were sent by the said Wing Fung firm whereas in fact the said Wing Fung firm had not purchased any bill of exchange from the said Kin Hing firm and the plaintiffs were not indebted to the said Kin Hing firm, and the said Wing Fung firm had not sent the said telegrams.

On the 13th February the plaintiffs having learned that the said telegrams had not in fact been sent by the said Wing Fung firm, informed the defendants and demanded repayment of the said \$5,000, but the defendants refused pending further information from Amoy.

The defendants have not repaid the plaintiffs the said sum or any part thereof. The plaintiffs therefore claim \$5,000 and interest thereon at the rate of eight per cent. per annum from the 13th February, 1907 to payment or judgment.

The statement of defence was as follows:—On the 12th February, 1907, the plaintiff received a telegram which was actually and in fact sent by the Wing Fung firm of Amoy requesting the plaintiffs to pay the defendant, the sum of \$5,000. The defendant, however, do not admit that the said telegram contained any reference whatever to any bill of exchange, nor do the defendants admit that the said request was connected in any way with any bill of exchange. The defendants admit that they requested payment of \$5,000 from the plaintiffs. The defendants so requested payment in pursuance of telegraphic instructions from the Kin Hing firm of Amoy, which carries on a banking business, requesting the defendants to collect the sum of \$5,000 from the plaintiffs on behalf of the said Kin Hing firm. The telegram which is referred to in the statement of claim was actually and in fact sent to the plaintiffs by the Wing Fung firm of Amoy, and the plaintiffs did, in reliance on such telegram, pay to the defendants the sum of \$5,000 on behalf of the said Kin Hing firm. The defendants forthwith on the said 12th February, 1907 telegraphed to the said Kin Hing firm informing them of the said payment and credited the said Kin Hing firm in account with the said sum of \$5,000 accordingly. The defendants do not admit that the said Wing Fung firm were agents of the plaintiffs, nor do they admit that the Wing Fung firm ever gave the plaintiffs reason to believe, or that the plaintiffs ever did believe, that the said Wing Fung firm had purchased from the Kin Hing firm a bill of exchange either on Samarang or on any other place, or at all. The defendants deny that the plaintiffs paid over the said sum of \$5,000 to the defendants under any such belief. At the time the defendants received the \$5,000 from the plaintiffs, but they did so solely in pursuance of the instructions from the Kin Hing firm, which instructions made no mention of any bill of exchange, whatever or of any indebtedness or alleged indebtedness of the Kin Hing firm to the plaintiffs. The defendants have since received that the Kin Hing firm received the sum of \$5,000 under the following circumstances. The Wing Fung firm owed the respective sums, viz. \$3,000 and \$1,942 to the Fung Yuen firm and to the Tai Hing firm, both of Amoy; and the Wing Fung firm upon being pressed by them for payment entered into agreement with the two firms that sums of \$3,000 and \$1,000 should be paid in Hongkong by the plaintiffs to the defendants on behalf of the Kin Hing firm, the latter firm having agreed to credit the Fung Yuen and Tai Hing firms respectively in their respective accounts with the Kin Hing firm, and the Fung Yuen and Tai Hing firms having each agreed on their parts with the Wing Fung firm to credit the said Wing Fung firm with like sums of \$3,000

and \$2,000 respectively, as soon as they had been informed by the Kin Hing firm of the said telegram from the defendants; and on the 12th day of February, 1907, the Kin Hing firm duly credited the Fung Yuen and Tai Hing firms in their respective current accounts with the said Kin Hing firm with the sums of \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively, and the Fung Yuen firm and the Tai Hing firm thereupon credited their accounts with the Wing Fung firm with the sums already mentioned, and the Tai Hing firm on the same date, at the request of the said Wing Fung firm, paid to the latter in cash \$45.78, being the difference between the \$2,000 so credited and the \$1,954.22 so owing by the Wing Fung firm. The defendants admit that the plaintiff did, on the evening of the 13th February, 1907, demand repayment of the \$5,000 and that the defendants refused.

Evidence was then heard, and the hearing adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

AN AMAH'S CLAIM.

Another Money Loan Association case came before his Honour yesterday when Cheung Tai-koo brought action against Lau Ming, the manager of the Association, to recover \$11. There was a cross-action by the defendant in which he claimed \$35.85, for goods supplied. Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) for the defendant.

Plaintiff said she was the last person entitled to draw from the Association, and she had asked the defendant for the amount due to her on several occasions. He paid her \$9, leaving a balance of \$11, due and owing. She had not received any further payments from the defendant during last year, being then employed at 9, Hollywood Road, and living there. Plaintiff did not tell the defendant to supply her daughter or son with food, as both had employment. She denied owing the defendant \$35.85 for meals supplied.

His Lordship—How many members are there in the Association; not above the proverbial twenty, I suppose?

Mr. Almada—Fifteen.

Plaintiff—Eighteen, but the book says fourteen.

Cross-examined by Mr. Goldring witness denied having received \$27.40 from the defendant. She had never boarded at his place, and it was not a fact that the majority of amahs in the district where she was employed went home at night.

Lau Ming said he resided at 44, Stanton Street, and the plaintiff lived with him. He supplied her son, daughter and nephew with food at her request. After deducting \$10 paid him by plaintiff on account, the balance due to him from her was \$25.85. The book put in was his Money Loan Association book, and the plaintiff signed it when she received \$27.40 in full discharge of her claim.

Mr. Almada—Was not Cheung Tai-koo the last person to draw in your Association?—No.

And you have paid her the amount she drew?—Yes, in full.

Have you a licence for hawking vegetables?—No, I don't hawk vegetables. I am a travelling trader.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship allowed judgment for the defendant on the original summons, and in the cross-action he gave him judgment for 23.86, the amount due by Cheung Tai-koo. He did not think she should be called upon to pay for the food supplied the other three persons.

Thursday, January 9th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A CROSS ACTION.

Yau Loong sued Dang Chee and Co. to recover \$984, being balance of account owing to them by the defendants for goods sold and delivered. A cross summons was brought by

Dang Chee and Co. against Yau Loong to recover \$551.73, being the equivalent of £50, the amount of damage suffered by the plaintiffs by reason of the defendant's breach of contract for the supply of 200 casks of ginzer, the contents in the casks supplied not being according to sample. In the first action (No. 1653) Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Dawson, Looker and Dawson) represented the plaintiffs, and in the counter claim he represented the defendants. In the second action (891) Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) appeared for the plaintiffs, who were defendants in the first action and represented by the same solicitor.

His Lordship—Can the two actions be taken together?

Mr. Goldring—I'm going to ask for an adjournment.

Mr. Atkinson—I must oppose it.

Mr. Goldring—My reasons are that my clients' executors admit \$133 as due. The managing partner has ceased to be managing partner, and I have had considerable difficulty in getting any instructions. I would ask for an adjournment on what terms your Lordship thinks fit. There is no question of the matter being settled before Chinese New Year.

Mr. Atkinson—The summons has been adjourned from Friday to Friday for the last two or three weeks.

His Lordship—They will have to pay for all that.

Mr. Atkinson—I would ask your Lordship to give judgment in action 1653.

Mr. Goldring—I have no objection to that if your Lordship will grant a stay of execution for fourteen days.

His Lordship—How long do you want the second action adjourned?

Mr. Goldring—It can be taken in Friday's list. I want to see the late manager, who is in Canton, and to get a cheque to pay in. The case practically resolves itself into an issue as to whether surveyors' reports are acceptable from home.

His Lordship gave judgment and costs for the plaintiff in action 1653, and stayed execution until Tuesday when action 1891 will be heard.

A DISPUTED CONTRACT.

The Nam Wo firm brought action against the Hop Fook Cheung to recover the sum of \$204.18, amount of ascertained and liquidated damages and loss sustained by the plaintiff by reason of a breach of contract by the defendants, dated November 6th, to sell to the plaintiffs and deliver within seven days, 500 tins of Swatow oil at 11.73 per picul, and which the defendants failed to deliver. Immediately after the contract the market price of the said oil went up, and the plaintiffs were compelled by the defendants' breach of contract to buy similar oil elsewhere at a higher price, and sustained a loss of \$204.18. Mr. Dixon (of Mr. R. A. Harding's office) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Sargent (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Gris) for the defendants.

Mr. Dixon informed the Court that there was a clause in the contract which stated that if the goods were not taken delivery of at the stipulated time they would be sold by auction. On the 6th November defendants said they could deliver the oil required by the plaintiffs, and on the 10th, when again interviewed, they promised to deliver it in a few days. On the strength of this the plaintiffs entered into a sub-contract, and later demanded of the defendants delivery of 500 tins under that contract and 300 tins under a former contract. Defendants agreed to deliver the 500 tins if plaintiffs would take delivery of the 300 tins. Plaintiffs agreed, and the 300 tins were forwarded and paid for. When defendants wanted more time in which to deliver the 500 tins. On the 14th plaintiffs received a letter from the sub-contractor demanding delivery of 500 tins. On the 17th plaintiffs again applied to the defendants for delivery, and again on the 21st, when the defendants said they would deliver in two days' time, as they expected a steamer to arrive with oil. On the 22nd plaintiffs received another letter from the sub-contractors demanding delivery and threatening proceedings. On the 23rd the defendants' foki offered to deliver 200 tins and pay a small compensation for not delivering the other 300 tins. A letter was written to defendants informing them that plaintiffs would not accept this, and a second

one, sent under registered cover, again demanded delivery, but had not been complied with, and thus the plaintiffs were compelled to buy oil for the sub-contractor at a loss. The price of oil during this time had been steadily rising.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship allowed judgment for plaintiffs with costs.

RICSHALESS HONGKONG.

RICSHA COOLIES STRIKE.

Considerable inconvenience was caused the general public on Jan. 6th by reason of the fact that all the public ricksha coolies on the island went on strike. By a curious coincidence the tramway service was dislocated at the same time, and it was at one time feared that the coolies were responsible for this. Such was not the case, however, for a flaw was found in a cable at Wanchai, and when this had been attended to the trams were once more set in motion. The ricksha trouble is between coolies and masters, and Chinese subsidiary coin is said to be at the root of the strike. Owners of rickshas are required to pay the Government a licence fee of \$72 a year, and this in the legal tender of the Colony. Rickshas are hired out to the coolies at from 35 to 45 cents a day, and 50 cents for the new ricksha. The bulk of the coolie's fares is paid in Chinese coin, and it is in this coin that he pays his master's hire. On account of this the owners of vehicles on the island decided recently to increase the hire of rickshas by four cents, giving as a reason that they lost a considerable sum by converting the Chinese coin into Hongkong dollars to pay licence fees. When this information was made known to the coolies they promptly went out on strike, and on Monday public rickshas were not to be had in the city.

It seems strange that the owners should be making this plea at this time of day, seeing that the discount on subsidiary coins, both copper and silver, is lower than it has been for the past three years at the least. Six months ago the discount on the Chinese 20 cent pieces was nearly 9 per cent; on the 10 cent pieces it was 9.3. On the Hongkong 20 cent pieces the discount was 7.50 per cent; and on the 10 cent pieces, 7.65 per cent. On Monday the discount on these coins was:

Chinese 20 cent pieces	\$4.10 per cent
Chinese 10 cent pieces	4.50 per cent.
Hongkong 20 cent pieces	3.8 per cent.
Hongkong 10 cent pieces	4.00 per cent.

From this it will be seen that if the action taken by the owners was for the cause stated, it should have been taken months, or even years ago. Another alleged cause of the strike is the introduction of the new rubber tyred ricksha. These vehicles with their white covered seats have been greatly appreciated by the general public, and of course, have relieved those owners who are without them of a considerable share of the public patronage. The proprietors who have not yet provided up-to-date vehicles have resorted to the plan of covering the second class rickshas with white covers, and this additional expense, it appears, they decided that the pullers should share with them, hence the reason for the increased hire.

Whatever the cause for the additional levy, the coolies were not prepared to pay it, and the discontent which has prevailed for some time culminated in the strike. Many of the pullers, it appears, were willing to continue work, but the majority ruled, and in view of probable molestation they desisted. So great was the discontent about the ricksha depôts that disturbances were feared, but these were prevented by the prompt action of the police, who have made several arrests. In a few instances the stray ricksha puller who endeavoured to continue work came in for a rough handling. One instance is reported where a European persuaded a coolie to pull him into the city, but the journey was cut short by a number of strikers who held up the puller, ordered the European to alight, and capsized the vehicle. It was a busy day for the chair coolie, however, and he profited by the absence of the ricksha, taking up the usual stands where that vehicle is found, and carrying fares along the level as well as in the hilly district.

The Captain Superintendent of Police was fully alive to the necessity of being prepared for any emergency, and in the forenoon took the precaution to strengthen the police patrols. Besides armed patrols two squads of lukongs and two squads of Indians were detailed for special duty in the western district where the majority of the riosha depôts are. But as before stated there was no serious trouble.

The prompt action taken by the Government will be appreciated by the public, many of whom shared the inconvenience of the strike. When the trouble was made known to the authorities the Registrar-General, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Capt. Lyons, the Hon. Mr. Wei Ynk and Hon. Dr. Ho Kai summoned the representatives of the riosha owners, and the representatives of the coolies to a conference at Mr. Brewin's office. After about an hour's sitting in which both sides stated their cases, the owners agreed to waive the additional four cents and continue as heretofore. Should it be found necessary to increase the fee for hiring rioshas later, the owners have promised to consult the Government before taking action. The strike was declared ended at 6 p.m. on Monday and rioshas were to be had in all parts of the city. Some 3,000 coolies were said to be affected by the strike, so it is a fortunate thing for all parties that it ended so quickly.

A BLUEJACKET'S DEATH.

At the Magistracy on January 9th before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz sitting as coroner, and Messrs. W. D. Turner (foreman) J. H. Kaptyn and J. E. Meyer, jurors, an inquiry was held into the cause of death of Signalman R. H. Street of H.M.S. "Tamar," whose body was found in the harbour on December 22nd.

Leung Hong, a fitter residing at 35 Connaught Road, stated that while passing Bank Wharf he saw an Englishman singing and a crowd of Chinese looking at him. The Englishman threw his cap into the water, continued singing as he walked down the steps of the pier, then jumped into the water and swam out about two lengths. Witness went on his way, and did not see the man again. There were no sampans in the vicinity, but the man in the water called out twice for one. He was dressed like a man-of-war's man.

The Coroner—You didn't think it necessary to interfere and help him to get out of the water?—He could swim.

Did he appear to be in difficulties or was he swimming freely?—He was swimming very fast and singing all the time.

Did you hear a man was missing?—No.

Could you tell what ship this man belonged to by his hat band?—No, I cannot read English.

James Macdonald, signalman at the Peak Station, knew the deceased who was signalman on the "Tamar." On December 19th witness met deceased at the Naval Canteen at about 6.30 p.m. They had two drinks together, and left the Canteen shortly afterwards. Deceased then said he was going to the Royal Engineer canteen. Witness went to that canteen shortly after nine o'clock, but did not see or hear anything of deceased, who had "two or three drinks in," but was not drunk when witness last saw him.

A. Hyndman, ship's corporal on H. M. S. "Tamar," said he passed the liberty men on December 19th. Deceased went ashore and had not returned at seven next morning when his leave was up. Witness next saw his body at the Mortuary on December 22nd.

The staff surgeon of the "Tamar" said he made an autopsy of the body of deceased, and the condition of the lungs led him to believe that death was due to drowning.

The inquiry was adjourned, so that further formal evidence might be called.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard, accompanied by Captain Mitchell-Taylor A.D.C. and Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, left on a visit to Canton on January 8th by H.M.S. "Alacrity" which was placed at the disposal of the gubernatorial party by Admiral Sir Arthur Moore. The Admiral was on board to receive His Excellency and party, but did not accompany them to the Chinese city. It is expected that the party will remain at Canton for two or three days.

THE ASILE DE LA SAINTE ENFANCE.

NEW BUILDING OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Another chapter in the history of a noble work was concluded on January 6th, when His Excellency the Governor opened the new building of the Asile de la Sainte Enfance at Wongneicheong, which is to be used as a hospital. This building, built to the simple yet handsome design of Messrs. Leigh and Orange, stands on the hillside on the east side of the race course, and overlooks the Happy Valley. It is of early Gothic design, steel joisted, while the floors are of concrete and throughout Deep Water Bay tiles have been used. It is of fireproof construction, and has three wards on the ground floor in which there are already some patients. The sisters' quarters are in the centre of the building, the kitchen at the rear, while at either end there is a bath room. There is a temporary chapel on the next floor, and a drying room above the kitchen. There is also a small ward detached from the main building where suspicious cases will be isolated. There is a spacious ground around the building, and this is surrounded by a high granite wall. On the ground to the south of the Convent a handsome monument in the form of a crucifix has been erected to the memory of Bishop Pizzardi whose early efforts brought about the erection of the new building.

At the opening ceremony yesterday, which took place in a marshed erected before the Convent, there were many present, among others being His Lordship Bishop Pizzardi, the Rev. Father Robert, procurator of Catholic Foreign Missions in the East, the Rev. Father de Maria, pro vicar of the Italian Mission, Rev. Father Spada, Rev. Brother Sylvester and numerous priests and Christian Brothers, the Hon. Commander Basil H. Taylor, R.N., Dr. F. Clark, Consul Romano and Mr. Leiris, Mr. J. Orange, Dr. and Mrs. Just, Mr. A. Bryer, Mr. Sin Pak-fan and Mr. Francisco Tse Yat.

At about three o'clock His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard arrived, accompanied by Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., and Mr. A. J. Brackenbury. The party were met by His Lordship the Bishop and the Mother Superior and conducted to the marshed.

His Lordship the Bishop said he was in duty bound, before asking His Excellency to declare the building opened, to express his indebtedness to the Governor for permitting his name to be associated with the first public ceremony, by which the convent would henceforth be connected with the benefit institutions of the Colony. The Convent had always received from the Government of Hongkong much sympathy and assistance, and the Government from the foundation of the Colony had always been represented by administrators who had uniformly shown an active and kind attitude towards every movement directed by charitable efforts. In taking part in this inaugural ceremony His Excellency conferred a great boon on the sisters, and on all connected with the Convent. Through the favourable recommendation of a former Governor, Sir Henry Blake, the Secretary of State for the Colonies granted the site upon which this fine edifice had been reared. During the administration of Sir Matthew Nathan the foundation stone was informally laid and the building commenced. Now it had been completed after its course of erection had been carried over a period of three successive administrations. From its inception the sisters of the Asile de la Sainte Enfance had received every encouragement, and he (the speaker) was asked by the Mother Superior to convey to His Excellency her thanks for the assistance from the Government, without which the erection of this new establishment attached to the French Convent would never have been successfully accomplished. The cost of the building amounted to over \$50,000, the cost of enclosing the ground with walls another \$10,000. Friends of the institution, all of whom he wished to cordially thank on behalf of the Mother Superior, contributed a portion of the cost. The balance, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Superiores, seconded by the indefatigable labours of the sisters and aided by the proceeds of the sale of the infants' work,

had been raised. At the same time he should not omit to mention Mr. Orange, whose firm had been responsible for the handsome building all present saw. Mr. Orange, Mr. A. Bryer, and during their absence Mr. Ough, took considerable pains in seeing that while the building was designed to meet all the requirements such an institution called for, it at the same time harmonised in architectural effect with the many palatial buildings of the island. The French Convent building in the city had long since been found too small to meet the demand for room, caused by the crush of Chinese women and children who sought comfort and admission there. The increasing number of females, and the nature of their illnesses in certain cases necessitated more accommodation and better surroundings for the treatment of the sick. His Lordship concluded by asking His Excellency and Lady Lugard on behalf of the Mother Superior and the sisters, to accept a small souvenir in memory of the occasion (two handsome silver trays, one of which was suitably inscribed.) "And now with this key," said his Lordship "I would ask your Excellency to have the goodness to open the door of the Convent".

His Excellency, before performing this ceremony, said—My Lord Bishop, Lady Superiores, Ladies and Gentlemen: Before I proceed to open the door with the key which has just been given to me by Monseigneur, I would like to express the pleasure which I feel in being called upon to assume this duty today. We have heard the story of the completing of this institution, and I have great pleasure in offering my congratulations to you all on at last entering into the fruition of your labours, seeing that the building is completed for which you have waited so many years. I am called upon to assume this pleasant task this afternoon merely because I occupy the position in this Colony of the representative of His Majesty, but, Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel that it is a great and personal pleasure to know that in some small direction my name should in the future be associated with this building, as having the good fortune to open it. You know the nature of the work carried on here. I am sorry I could find no later statistical records than 1904. In that year some 1470 patients were taken in and some 40 per cent cured. Of Chinese adults admitted to the hospital there were about 100 in addition to the out patients; the old, the destitute, women and children, the lame and the blind. Some 170 Chinese orphans are maintained, and educated, mostly, of course, foundlings received by the institution. There is also a school for European children, mostly English and French, with an average of some 70 pupils. That the work has increased is evident by the fact that a new building has been called for, which is being opened today. That the Government supports and cordially approves of the work is evident by the grant to the Convent and the grant of this site. I should like to congratulate you especially on the site you have chosen. I think that both for the ladies who are engaged in daily toil here, and for the pupils and foundlings, this pleasant outlook around us, with the unique view of the sports going on, the races and all the festivities showing the joyous side of human nature, and with, I am glad to say considerable area for a playground, there should be a great improvement in their physical condition, in their health and in their cheerfulness; in contrast with those who occupy buildings looking into dingy Chinese streets. I would like to add my congratulations also, to those which his Lordship the Bishop has already bespoken on your behalf, to the architect, Mr. Orange. I think we can all look on the building with thorough satisfaction and as being a credit to Hongkong; from an architectural aspect, from the way he has adopted the surroundings, and from the site. I had the pleasure of going over the building before it was completed and it seems admirably adapted inside for the purposes for which it is required. I have nothing more to say except one word. That is, Ladies and gentlemen, that I think when we, who are engaged in the business and the work of the outdoor world, come for a moment into this house of charity and of good work, that we should learn something and profit by the lesson. When we

consider that day by day and year by year these ladies and these Reverend Fathers are ceaselessly engaged in trying to allay the suffering, and of trying to better the prospects in the future of what I may call the flotsam and jetsam of humanity; the waifs, the strays, the blind, the halt, the maimed, and the most unpromising material, I think we can say that it is good for us occasionally to be here (applause).

His EXCELLENCY then opened the front door of the Convent. The numerous guests entered and inspected the premises, and before departing partook of the hospitality of the sisters.

THRILLING STORY OF CASTAWAYS.

TERRIBLE PRIVATIONS OF SEAMEN.

One of those tales of the sea, unique in the realm of romance comes from New Zealand and is invested with local interest by reason of the fact that a brother of Mr. H. Eyre, the manager of Messrs. Wm. Powell, Ltd., was one of the crew of the wreck. The four-masted barque "Dundonald," of 2115 tons, sailed from Sydney for Falmouth on February 17th last year. On the morning of March 7th, at 12.30 p.m., the ship struck on the precipitous cliffs of Disappointment Island, a bleak and barren island to the west of Auckland Island, and a place where many a good ship has been driven by mountainous seas on to the cruel rocks. In the case of the "Dundonald," when the vessel struck, a heavy sea swept the crew overboard, and twelve of the unfortunate men, including the captain and his son, were drowned. Disappointment Island! The place is well named. It has been the last port of call for many seamen, and it was a cheerless haven for the survivors of this wreck. The mate of the "Dundonald," Jabez Peters, worn out with fatigue, and disappointed with the discovery that the island was not one on which a depot was situated, died after a fortnight.

The remainder of the crew, fifteen all told, spent seven months on the Island of Disappointment, during which time they endured terrible privations, and as they scanned the seascape day by day for a friendly sail without success, must have realised fully the meaning of the proverb, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." During their stay on the island the seamen lived on the young mollyhaws (penquins?), and the stems of plants. Later, when the birds migrated, seals came along, and these were clubbed and provided food and clothing.

As month succeeded month, and no vessel bore into sight, the castaways decided to try to reach the main Auckland Island. They made a canvas boat, seven feet long, pieces of canvas being sewn together for the necessary covering. The needles the sailors used were made of birds' bones. When the frail skiff was ready for sea some of the seamen set sail for the main Auckland Island, the nearest about five miles distant, in search of provisions. After an absence of seven days, in which trip they had been unsuccessful, they returned to their comrades. A second attempt was made later, and after terrible difficulties they succeeded in reaching the depot, where the story of their adventures was told. The boat provided for castaways was then secured, and the sailors faced the heavy sea once more to rescue their comrades. They reached the island which had been their dreary home for so many long months, the remainder of the crew were shipped, and all arrived safely at the depot where they remained until the arrival of the New Zealand Government steamer "Hinemoa," by which vessel they were taken on to Auckland.

The survivors are M'Lachlan, second mate; Kundsén, third mate; Eyre, Walters, Jule, Enlay, Santiago, Herman and Pretz, A. B.; Ellis, Peel, Stewart, Grattan, ordinary seaman; Ireny, deck boy; Roberts, cabin boy.

Those drowned were J. Thorborn, captain; his son, J. Thorborn, jun.; W. E. Smith, steward; E. Lee, carpenter; T. Crawford, sailmaker; J. Cromarty, deck boy; Hallerson, Andersen, Lagerblom, Lowe, Navarat and Watson, A. B's.

Other disasters on the Auckland Island include the wreck of the French barque "Anjou," in February, 1905; the brig "Ratton" and schooner "Invercauld" in 1864; the ship "Derry Castle" in 1887; the barque "Compadre" in 1891; and the ship "Stoneleigh" in 1895. A notable disaster was the loss of the "General Grant," an American vessel, in the year 1866. She ran into a cave about 250 yards long. She had a large number of passengers on board, 68 of whom were drowned. On November 21st, 1867, ten survivors were rescued by a brig. Others tried to reach New Zealand in a small boat, but were never heard of again. Altogether 80 lives were lost in the wreck. Many attempts have since been made to recover some boxes of gold which were on board when the ship went down.

Mr. Eyre has not yet heard from his brother, but his people at home have written him that they have received a cable from the young sailor, stating that he is in the best of health.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

The year 1908 has dawned with no promise of improvement and prosperity for the Colony. Business has been bad, and the immediate outlook is not cheerful. Two Chinese banks—the Kee Cheong and the Tay Bo—stopped payment in the last week of the old year, and much distress was caused among those whose savings were deposited in the banks. The year has witnessed a considerable reduction in the number of Chinese shops, and if a comparison of the number of shops in existence on Chinese New Year Day 1907 could be made with the number which will re-open after the Chinese New Year holidays next month we would find, I venture to say, striking evidence of the decadence of the port.

AN EXPENSIVE SURVEY.

General Branco and a large staff have been in the Colony now something like a twelvemonth drawing up a scheme for the much-needed improvement of the harbour, and certain other public improvements. This survey has already cost some thousands of dollars, and the public would be interested to learn what prospects there are of these projects being carried out.

FIRES.

There have lately been rather frequent outbreaks of fire, and a strict official inquiry ought to be made into the causes of these fires.

On Friday morning two houses, Nos. 39 and 40, Rua da Taitioes, were entirely destroyed by fire, and other contiguous buildings narrowly escaped the same fate. The houses destroyed were occupied by joss-stick dealers.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

A petition has been sent to the Leal Senado by Mr. G. Hermanier, representing the Société d'Electricité Indo-Chinoise, requesting the transfer to them of the contract made with the Société Electrique d'Extrême Orient for the lighting of the thoroughfares of the Colony. The petition states that a new installation in the power house is necessary, and they seek leave to establish a power house on another site. Fifteen months will be required for the new installation and meanwhile the petitioner asks the Leal Senado to light the city with kerosene lamps as formerly at the Colony's expense. Now, the contract made with the Société Electrique d'Extrême Orient was that they should preserve and keep in good condition the old kerosene lamps, and it should be the duty of the Leal Senado to see in the interests of the public, that the terms of the contract are faithfully observed. Moreover, if a transfer is required why was a request not made by the present concessionaires?

A SUICIDE.

On Saturday a runner of the Macao Hotel, named Silva, was found dead on the hill near the lighthouse, having been shot in the right temple. The weapon, assumed to be a revolver, could not be found. The deceased is stated to have left a letter in his room announcing his intention to end his life.

THE GUARDSHIP.

The "Rio Lima" left on Friday for Canton.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the Hongkong Daily Press.]

(Continued from last week.)

XV.

In England the Canton incident had a curious and unexpected effect. It sort of out the pusillanimous self-styled philosophic radicals from the mass of the nation still sound, and by a strange coincidence brought together Lord Derby, the Conservative leader and Cobden, the most intractable of the new freetraders. Lord Palmerston was challenged in both Houses, and defeated in the Commons. Instead of resigning he appealed to the country, at the same time quietly continuing his preparations. The result was to replace him in power with a larger majority than before. Meanwhile the war in China went on. China made even a worse stand than in the previous fight; Canton was taken with little loss on either side, and the boastful Yeh was ignominiously sent a prisoner to Calcutta and the City placed under an allied Commission, the French having joined in the war. No more incapable agent than Lord Elgin was, probably, ever employed on a mission of national importance, but the conduct of the Chinese at last did what Elgin would never have done had he found a mousehole to creep out of. He dawdled irresolutely at Canton quarrelling with every one, merchant or official indifferently; protesting against the job he had undertaken to accomplish, yet without the pluck to throw it over. The more truculent of the officials seeing they could do so with impunity recommenced the old style of boastful interference, and openly set about drilling their braves, while the old system of cutting off stragglers from the garrison was revived. The Canton officials at last ordered all Chinese subjects at Hongkong to leave; and proceeded, as in the old days, to cut off supplies, which compelled Sir John Bowring to take the affair into his own hands greatly to Elgin's chagrin. At last finding that the other plenipotentiaries who had been sent out by the European Powers had made up their mind to go north, to Peking, if necessary, Elgin with bad grace made up his mind to go there too. The season was too late for operating that year, so the expedition had to be postponed till the spring, when at last it got off.

Then at last, early in the spring of 1858, it started, and went up to the Gulf of Pechili; here the Taku Forts at the entrance of the Peiho, thought impregnable by the Chinese Government, were captured, and Elgin went on to Tientsin. His orders were to settle affairs at Peking itself for which he had sufficient force, but the Court being now thoroughly affrighted, sent down in hot haste its Commissioners to stop him. With his usual shilly-shallying Lord Elgin permitted himself to be talked over. The treaty was not of Elgin's construction, although he characteristically remarked "any fool could have made it," but had been written out in the Foreign Office, so that he had not the opportunity of tampering with it, or the result would probably have been bizarre. Impatient to get away to Japan, where he would have no governors nor merchants to trouble him, he had not the address to hide his indifference, but let it be seen by the Chinese officers, who took advantage of it to cajole the minister who felt proud when on the 26th June, 1858, the instrument was at last signed, and as he fancied done with whereupon with almost indecent haste he betook himself to Japan without going to Peking; the chief point detailed in his instructions. The treaty, it is true, contained the stipulation that in future there should be a Minister in residence at the Capital, but Elgin, though he dared not leave it out, showed plainly that so far as he was concerned he cared not a jot for this. Besides stipulating for the residence of the minister in Peking, the treaty also provided for the opening of three ports about the Gulf of Pechili; it might have contained almost anything for all the Chinese signatures cared, they had no intention of keeping it, and so were equally indifferent with the Plenipotentiary.

(To be continued.)

COMMERCIAL.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report dated Hongkong, 10th January, state that 17 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 61,200 tons of coal. Since December 27th 8 steamers have arrived with a total of 56,800 tons of coal. No sales of consequence to note—Market quiet.

Quotations:—

Oardiff.....\$ — to \$ — ex-ship, nominal.
 Australian.....\$11.50 ex-ship, sellers.
 Yabari Lump...\$12.00 nominal.
 Miki Lump...\$10.00 nominal.
 Moji Lump.....\$8.50 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
 Moji Unscreened \$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
 Akaike Lump...\$8.50 to \$9.00 steady.
 Labuan Lump \$8.25 nominal.

OPIUM

HONGKONG, January, 9th.

Quotations are:—Allowance not to be petty.

Malwa New	\$920	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$960	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1000	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1040	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$750	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$830	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$920	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$920	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$900	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$—	to	—	do.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong 10th January, 1908, states:—Nothing of interest has occurred in this market during the past fortnight, and it now looks as if the business for this native year has almost come to an end pending the revival for clearance after Chinese New Year (2nd February). Early in the interval some sales were reported, but since then dealers have shown little or no disposition to buy, and the improvement in values of \$1 to 3 per bale which had been established in a falling exchange has been entirely lost with the unexpected rise in silver. There has been less inquiry for No. 20s, and No. 16s have been practically neglected, the bulk of the small business done being in No. 10s. Prices on the whole are fairly up to previous quotations which, however, do not allow much for the loss in exchange, and are still below replacing cost. Bombay continues strong. Arrivals during the interval are comparatively large and our stocks show a small increase on last estimate. The market closes quiet and unsteady. Arrivals during the interval amount to 6,234 bales, sales aggregate 2,052 bales, unsold stock estimated at 48,000 and sold but uncleared stock in native hands at 13,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—No business is reported. Japanese Yarn:—Sales of 25 bales No. 16s at \$115 and of 100 bales No. 20s at from \$118 to 132 are reported. Raw Cotton:—The high prices asked for by holders for Indian descriptions have greatly checked business and the only sale of the fortnight is that of a choice parcel of 130 bales superfine Bengals at \$24½. In China kinds 150 bales (small) have changed hands at \$25½ to \$26½. Estimated unsold stock 15,000 bales Indian and 470 bales China. Quotations are \$20 to 24½ for Indian and \$22 to 77 for China. Exchange on India has fluctuated considerably in sympathy with silver, closing strong to-day at Rs. 142½ for T/T and Rs. 143½ for Post, showing a gain of nearly 7 points on last mail. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 92½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 4th instant, viz:—Indian:—Market dull and quiet, total sales about 2,800 bales mostly speculative, with an advance of 1 to 2 Taels in prices. Estimated unsold and uncleared stock about 90,000 bales. Japanese:—In steady demand; sales about 1,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 89 to 93 for No. 16s and Tls. 96 to 105 for No. 20s. Local:—There has been an improvement in the demand, and about 2,000 bales are reported to have changed hands at unchanged rates.

PIECE GOODS.

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Weekly Market Report, dated Shanghai, December 31st, 1907:—The year which closes to-day will long be remembered as one of the worst in the history of the import trade; it began with somewhat brighter prospects than characterized the closing months of 1906, but the more cheerful feeling was short-lived and as Spring advanced it became apparent that a long and weary period of depression, which unfortunately still continues, was in store for the trade. This depression is partly the result of over trading in 1905, when an enormous business was done, many of the contracts having to be placed for delivery nine and even twelve months ahead; a considerable portion of these purchases arrived at a time when demand had died away and they brought about an unwieldy accumulation of stock, which has been in process of liquidation throughout this year. The liquidation has been retarded by direct shipments from the producing markets to the northern ports, which formerly drew the great bulk of their supplies from here—direct shipment from Japan to Manchuria, Chihli and Shantung and from Europe, America and India mainly to Tientsin. The transference of trade was rendered easy owing to the facilities offered by importers in the North, who delivered good on credit, whilst cash on delivery is the custom of the trade here. A portion, at any rate, of the business done in the North has proved to have been artificially stimulated by the freedom with which credit has been given; probably a large portion of the trade would not have been done at all but for the financial facilities offered. Some definite understanding as to the basis upon which the Northern trade is to be carried on in the future will have an important influence in expediting or retarding a re-establishment of sound conditions here. Whilst the situation in the North may be unsound, there is plenty of room for reform here also; much good might be done if by co-operation between foreign importers and the Chinese dealers through the Guilds, some restriction of facilities to untrustworthy operators were brought about. If the Guilds were to give references as to the standing and resources of the various hongs, dividing them into classes, as is customary with the Chinese banks, recording the names of the partners in each firm, and notifying changes therein, it is probable that a check upon irresponsible trading would ensue, to the benefit of both foreigners and Chinese. The Yarn Guild is endeavouring to establish a system of deferred payment of brokerage, which is also a move in the right direction. Another influence in retarding liquidation in 1907 has been the rigid continuance of auction sales upon the same magnitude as when times were prosperous. When demand falls off and prices decline far below the level of the producing markets merchants generally stop buying in the hope that curtailment of supplies will bring about a reaction; this policy is not adopted by sellers at auction; they continue to dispose of unliquidated quantities throughout the whole period of stagnation, with the natural result that the level of prices is artificially depressed, the existing depression is prolonged, and recovery postponed. It is difficult to believe that the laws of supply and demand do not apply equally to all trade whether it is done by private contract or public sale. Last but not least exchange has again become a disturbing element in our market—no trade can be prosperous when there are variations within three months of 25 to 30 per cent. in the value of the currency in which it is carried on; silver still is an important factor in the internal circulation of many of the most important countries in the world, of France and other European states, America, India and the Far East generally, and perhaps the outcome of the present crisis in the West may be to bring about renewed attempts to establish a universal standard for all commercial nations. It is said that China is not so indifferent to this question as she is supposed to be, but that the difficulty of the Imperial Government is to know what practical steps can be safely undertaken. At a time when the financial journals of England are advising the American Government to meet the scramble for currency by issuing inconvertible notes, it is not clear to residents in a silver country like China why silver coin notes based upon a fixed ratio to gold on the Indian principle cannot be availed of to relieve the stringency. The option of making internal payments in silver which prevails in France would tend to put a check upon hoarding in times of panic, and the greater use of silver would tend to prevent periodical panics in the silver market.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade dated Shanghai, 2nd January, 1908, has the following:—We learn that Manchester has had some further orders for this market to occupy her during the last ten days, in the shape of about 140,000 pieces grey goods and a moderate quantity of bleached cloth. The market is very firm, weavers finding a difficulty in obtaining Yarn to fulfil their orders, as spinners are so busy spinning at very remunerative prices for export. A reaction has to be reported in the Liverpool market, Mid. American coming this morning 6.18d. The last price wired for "futures" was 5.78d. A decline has taken place in Egyptian, which is now quoted 10d. The latest New York quotations for cotton are 10.56 cents for March and 10.60 cents for May option. The Yarn market is quiet but firm. Native raw cotton is easier. Business from first hands has been practically at a standstill and native held cargo is in such strong hands now that there are no sellers. Quotations are quite nominal, there really being no telling what prices would be accepted. Foreign holders are certainly disposed to retain their stocks until fully adequate prices are offered for them. Clearances have been fair, considering the holiday season. The auctions have proceeded uninterruptedly, with perhaps a slight alteration in dates, but no diminution in quantities. Prices have been fairly well maintained, but at the close, as depicted by this morning's auction, there was a slightly weaker tendency in all but the Turkey Reds, strange to say. Woollens show but little change, slightly firmer if any thing we should say.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 26th December, 1907, states:—Gallnuts.—Trade is dull. Buyers are not eager. Usual galls have been done at 44½ c.i.f. Cowbides.—A very large business has been transacted and further business is only booked on firm orders from Europe. Tobacco.—A fair business is being done. Feathers.—Market quiet. Supplies are coming in slowly and from 3 to 4 weeks later than last year. Cotton.—The market has a downward tendency, owing to the inactivity of the Japanese buyers. Tallow.—There is a very good demand. Market firm. Strawbraid.—There has been renewed demand for Fine Leichow Mottled, otherwise market lifeless. Goatskin Rugs.—A small business is being done at good prices. Wool.—Sheep's.—Owing to the bad financial condition in the States this article is much neglected. Supplies coming to this market are small. Wood Oil.—A good business is being done and market is steady. Sesamum Seed.—The demand from Europe has abated and in consequence holders are willing to grant concessions.

Per I. G. M. steamer *Sachsen*, sailed on 24th December 1907. For Genoa:—100 bales waste silk, 15 bales raw silk. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—55 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—124 rolls matting. For Bremen:—12 cases ginger. For Hamburg:—25 cases bristles, 20 bales feathers, 20 cases paper, 12 cases human hair.

Per steamer *Albenga*, sailed on 31st December. For New York:—4 cases preserves, 25 cases staraniseed, 34 cases human hair, 70 cases essential oil, 100 cases soy, 103 cases cassia, 180 bales china reeds, 300 packages crackers, 320 bales canes, 4,131 packages merchandise. For Boston:—25 cases essential oil, 50 cases Saigon cassia, 863 packages merchandise. For Philadelphia:—242 packages merchandise. For Washington D.C.:—191 packages merchandise. For New York and or Baltimore:—856 rolls matting.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nyansa*, sailed on 2nd Jan. For Hamburg:—7 cases cigars. For Manchester:—59 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—1 bale hemp. For London:—3,634 bales hemp, 86 cases chinaware, 13 cases sundries, 4 cases blackwood ware, 1 case books, 100 bales tea, 7 cases hats, 400 rolls mattings, 25 bales waste silk, 672 bales mineral ore, 13 cases curios, 47 bales canes, 1 box pills, 45 rolls mats, 2 hhds. gin, 1 case lacquered ware, 1 case (fly wheel), 1 case (motor). For Harve:—300 bales hemp. For Algiers:—8 cases cigars. For Marseilles:—200 bales hemp, 100 cases camphor, 3 cases hats.

HANKOW, 4th Jan., 1908.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 28.50
Do. Seconds.....	" 25.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected.....	" 23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour.....	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each.....	" 10.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	" —
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu.....	" —
Green China Grass, Szechuen.....	" 9.10
Jute.....	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow.....	" 10.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng.....	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu.....	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	" 11.00
Animal Tallow.....	" 10.20
Gallnuts, usual shape.....	" 15.04
Gallnuts, plum do.....	" 16.75
Tobacco, Tingchow.....	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong.....	" —
Turmeric.....	" —
Sesamum Seed.....	" 5.90
Sesamum Seed Oil.....	" —
Wood Oil.....	" 8.50
Tea Oil.....	" —

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th January, 1908.—The vagaries of sterling exchange, and the uncertainty as to its future course, have seriously interfered with business during the past week, and our market has ruled quieter in all departments. Rates, however, have remained fairly steady, and close in some instances at a slight advance. Bar silver, after advancing to 27d. with T/T on London at 1/11½, has fallen away to 25 15 16d. T/T closing at 1/10½d. Shanghai T/T is quoted at 74½. The Bank of England rate is unchanged at 6 per cent, but the market rate of discount is again easier at 4½ per cent. for 3 months, and 4¼ per cent. for 6 months bills. Consols are still quoted at £84½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled quiet with sales and small sellers of old at \$725 and new at \$715. The London rates, however, have advanced, and are now quoted at £82 and £80 respectively. Nationals are unchanged at \$51 and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked, and continue in request, at \$825. Cantons are procurable at \$242½, after sales at the rate. North China, China Traders and Yangtses are unaltered and without local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have again been done at \$330 and close with probable buyers. Chinas have been booked at \$95 and close firm.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao were placed in the early part of the week at \$29½ and latterly at \$29 and \$28½, closing with buyers at the last named rate. Indo-Chinas and China and Manilas are quiet and without business. Douglases are enquired for at the advanced rate of \$40, Shell Transports at 4½ and Star Ferries at \$24 and \$12½ for the old and new issues respectively.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are firmer with buyers at \$101. Luzons continue in request at \$10.

MINING.—Charbonnages and Raubs are unchanged and without business. Chinese Engineerings are easier with sellers in the north at Tls. 15½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been sold at \$95 and \$96, and there are further sellers at the higher rate. Kowloon Wharves are quiet with small sales and sellers at \$55 and \$53 for the old and new issues respectively. Shanghai Docks are firm in the North at Tls. 76, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves at Tls. 212½, after sales both locally and in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$95 and \$94 and close with buyers at the lower rate. West Points have improved to \$50 with small sales, and Hongkong Hotels to \$104 with sales and further buyers. Kowloon Lands can still be procured at \$35, and Humphrey's Estates at \$10½. Shanghai Lands are wanted in the north at Tls. 104.

COTTON MILLS.—We have heard of no business in this section, and the only change in quotations is in Ewos which have advanced to Tls. 57.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bell's Asbestos have improved to \$7½ and Dairy Farms to \$17 both with buyers. China Borneos have been booked at \$10½ and China Providents at \$9½. Green Island Cements have ruled steady at \$11½ with further sales. Watsons continue in request at \$10 and Powells at \$5. Langkats are slightly higher at Tls. 367½.

MEMOS.—The transfer books of the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., will be closed from the 17th instant, and the West Point Building Co., Ltd. from the 20th instant. Both general meetings will be held on the 28th instant.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	{ \$125	{ \$725, sellers \$715, sellers Ln. £82 Ln. £80
National B. of China	£6	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10½, sales
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$6, sellers \$6, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 57
Hongkong	\$10	\$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 65, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 270
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	{ \$55, old, sellers \$53, new sal. & sel.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$96, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$10, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 76
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 212½, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$14
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, sales & sel.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$25
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$104, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$242½, sales & sel.
China Fire	\$20	\$95, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330
North China	\$25	Tls. 87, sellers
Union	\$100	\$825, sales & buy.
Yangtsze	\$60	{ \$145 \$135
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$95
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$104, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 104
West Point Building	\$50	\$50, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$500, buyers
Raubs	18 10	\$84
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$13 \$2
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$101, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$28½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	{ \$40, sellers \$24, sellers
Shell Transport Co	£1	44
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$12½, buyers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$20, sales
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$14, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$24, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$0	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, January 10th

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer...	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	239
Credits 4 months' sight	245½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	185
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	142½
Bank, on demand	143
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	143½
Bank on demand	143
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	92½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	93½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	22½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	114½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	4½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	4, p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	76½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.35
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$54.40
BAR SILVER, per oz	25½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$3.80 discount,
"	10 " "	4.30 " "
Hongkong	20 " "	3.55 " "
"	10 " "	4.00 " "

FREIGHTS.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, 2nd January, 1908.—Since our last issue the holidays have intervened and business has been almost entirely suspended, there is consequently very little cargo to go forward and steamers must expect but poor support in the near future. Coastwise.—There is very little doing on the coast as is only to be expected at this period of the year, the Northern ports being closed for the winter and very little trade going on between Japan and China. There are a number of steamers seeking employment and we are afraid it will be a case of some of them "laying-up" at any rate until after China New Year unless an outlet can be found for them in the South.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January—

ARRIVALS.

- 2, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 2, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 2, Vorwaerts, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 3, Empire, British str., from Melbourne.
- 3, Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Keemun, British str., from Tacoma U.S.A.
- 3, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 3, Minnesota, American str., from Seattle.
- 3, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Saint Patrick, Brit. str., from Singapore.
- 3, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 4, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 4, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
- 4, Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 4, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 4, Quarta, German str., from Boeleleng.
- 5, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 5, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
- 5, Fukura Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 5, Paoting, British str., from Chefoo.
- 5, Sexta, German str., from Singapore.
- 5, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Soashu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Tingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 6, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 6, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
- 6, Fukushima Maru, Jap. str., from Aomori.
- 6, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Japan, British str., from Calcutta.
- 6, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Neumueller, German str., from Kobe.
- 6, Palawan, British str., from London.
- 6, Taishu, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Tatsu Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
- 6, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., from Yama.
- 6, Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.
- 6, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 7, A. Apear, British str., from Yokohama.
- 7, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 7, Glenavon, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Glenroy, British str., from London.
- 7, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 7, Hopsang, British str., from Swatow.
- 7, Progress, Nor. str., from Sandakan.
- 7, Yesan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 8, Chiengmai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, Hsinchang, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
- 8, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
- 8, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Swatow.
- 8, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Kanchow, British str., from Hongay.
- 8, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Scandia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 8, Wingsang, British str., from Wu.
- 9, Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Devanha, British str., from Bombay.
- 9, Korea, American str., from San Francisco.

January—

DEPARTURES.

- 3, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Hsinking, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Hue, French str., for Kwang Chow Wan.
- 3, Kagashima Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
- 3, Kowloon, German str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 3, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 3, Nyanza, British str., for Singapore.
- 3, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Zeten, German str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Amoy, German str., for Saigon.
- 4, Ching Wo, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 4, Clara Jebson, German str., Haiphong.
- 4, Hongkong M., Jap. str., for San Francisco.
- 4, Huichow, British str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Manila, German str., for Manila.
- 4, Marie, German str., for Moji.
- 4, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Swanley, British str., for Durban.
- 4, Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 5, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Chowfs, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 5, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 5, Empire, British str., for Moji.
- 5, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
- 5, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Swatow.
- 5, Kinkiang, British str., for Amoy.

- 5, Saint Patrick, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Saigon.
- 5, Vorwaerts, German str., for Pakhoi.
- 6, Chihli, British str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Glenek, British str., for Moji.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Promethus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 6, Shantung, German str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Alesia, German str., for Moji.
- 7, Armand Behic, Fren. str., for Europe &c.
- 7, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Kaga Maru Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Keemun, British str., for Sourabaya.
- 7, Laisang, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Macduff, British str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Nichibei Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 7, Newchwang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Tami g, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Chingtu, British str., for Yokohama.
- 8, Daphne, German str., for Singapore.
- 8, Fukushima Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 8, Glenroy, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Ichang, British str., for Amoy.
- 8, Mandasan M., Jap. str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 8, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Neptune, British str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 8, Palawan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chingtu*, from Australia via Ports, Mr. and Mrs. George, Mr. and Mrs. Goetz, Miss Meyer, Messrs. Parker, and G. Fowl.

Per *Empire*, from Melbourne, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Chester, Misses E. and G. Perkins, Messrs. F. Gavin, E. Benckham, P. B. Sharp and K. R. Hatheramani; for Japan, Mrs. Hope, Mr. Arthur.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Miss T. Okachi; from Shanghai, Mrs. & Miss Marques, Miss Gearon, Messrs. Duncan, C. H. Schröder, R. P. Louis Montmasson, and Gomes.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. E. W. Sobek, Favreau and Besuin; from Singapore, Messrs. Pierre Lorillout, J. Ph. Stap, and Schattmberg; from Saigon, Mr. and Madame E. Hope, Mrs. J. Hechler & child, and Mr. Leroy; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Ronse Lacordaire, Mr. and Mad. Roux, Mr. and Mad. Truon and child, Mr. and Mad. Boudon, Mad. Ryding, Messrs. Thesmar, Enault, R. P. Michel, Debourg, Ballard, Goutagny, and Paris; from Saigon, Messrs. P. Deronzier, & Carreau; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Tibbs; from Colombo, Mr. Poliakoff; from Saigon, Mr. Wegelin.

Per *Palawan*, for Hongkong, from London, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. E. L. Grieve, Miss V. M. Smith, Messrs. P. Stewart, and G. W. Whiting; from Singapore, Mr. W. L. Ighton; from London, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Cornfoot, Lt. and Mrs. E. P. St. John Benn, infant and maid, Mrs. Schroeder and children, Misses M. Webb, and Haddon, Messrs. A. A. P. P. J. Ross, McGarvey, R. Blair, R. A. Forde, W. Norman, J. A. Nield, C. Hodson, J. H. Yait, H. Y. Murray, R. J. O. Niell, and W. Neilson; for Yokohama, Rev. R. H. Dicken, and Mr. R. Atkinson.

Per *Minnesota*, from Seattle via Ports, Mr. and Mrs. M. Peoples & 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. T. Galli and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Masters, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Kirtland, Mr. and Mrs. C. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. F. Jansen, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dougherty & child, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Am s, Mr. & Mrs. A. Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Deaves, Mr. and Mrs. S. Orton, Lieut. and Mrs. J. Jones, Master and Mrs. McCune, Mrs. A. Kelly, Mrs. W. White, Misses Hackett, Kirtland, H. Jones, E. McCune, M. Smith, A. Deaves, and I. Swan, Rev. J. A. Walker, Messrs. T. Walters, G. W. Brydges, D. Jewell, N. Haynes, M. Smith, D. W. Betts, W. Rosencrand, C. A. Ratcliff, B. Roxas, F. A. Rabb, S. E. Wishard, C. C. Lacey, R. Adams, C. Ellsworth, E. F. O'Neill, G. B. Atkinson, E. Dugay, Wallen, W. Paritt, M. Wilson, S. O'Brien, W. Non, J. S. Hall, W. T. Gantworth, J. Monroe, D. Monroe, E. Deaves, E. Ravant, and H. O. Duvendack.

Per *Devanha*, from Bombay, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Burkes, Mr. and Mrs. Jupp, Rev. and Mrs. Thornton and 3 children, Mrs. and Miss Robertson and family, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Scatliff, Mrs. Broke, Miss Sees, Misses Campbell, and Teresa, Lieut. C. G. Becknith, Sergt. O. Sullivan, Messrs. W. M. Pailane, W. Benson, Russell, W. R. Billingham, A. Scott, W. Monk, E. C. Richards, R. W. Morris, A. C. Leith, H. M. Morris, A. B. Smith, Habbeifield, C. C. Barlow, B. Walker, Wellman, H. J. C. Hill, L. C. Coventing, and W. G. Blackwell.

Per *Delhi*, for Hongkong, from Kobe Mr. K. Van Zuylen; from Shanghai, Lord and Lady French and maid, Messrs. Murray Scott, G. Tonney, F. H. Ellis, M. Jaffer, J. Ginnell and servant; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. H. D. Angus; from Kobe, Mr. M. Marshall; from Shanghai, Mr. Clon-t; from Yokohama, for Bombay, Mr. E. J. Flanagan; for Brindisi, Mr. G. M. Currie, for Port Said, Mr. F. Graham Jones; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Durant; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. L. Medwood; for London via Marseilles, Mr. H. H. Bristow; from Hongkong, for London via India, Mr. Mrs. and Miss D. Livingstone.

Per *Korea*, from San Francisco via Ports, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Walsh, Rev. and Mrs. R. T. Cowles, Mrs. R. J. Mackenzie, Mrs. A. Clark, Mrs. A. E. Kirby, Mrs. W. F. Montavon, Mrs. Alberta Stickney, Misses Julia F. B. B. Giff, A. Julia Bennighoff, Mabel Evans, Sarah E. Osgood, Ida Patterson, Della Patterson, Dr. G. W. McKean, Commander H. C. Gearing, U.S.N., Messrs. P. W. Lyon, E. Lyons, G. F. Bennighoff, A. Courtney, H. T. Cresshaw, A. B. Cresan, Arthur Crowell, A. L. Giacconini, John S. Gilli, A. G. Fannef, Nick Kaminaki, H. Millard, J. B. Miller, J. O. Sanderson, A. E. Shannon, Daniel M. Searcy, Fred P. Warren, Joseph L. Whelan, P. F. Van Duesen and Edward Zuellig.

DEPARTED.

Per *Yarra*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Erich Goder, Mr. and Mrs. Rondon, Miss M. Baller, Lady de Sausmarez, Sir Havilland, Messrs. A. Le Beton, B. Twyman, A. H. Fenton, Ernest W. Solenk, and Möller; for Kobe, Messrs. J. Ph. Stap, Woodley, and S. P. Schattenburg.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hochkiss, Messrs. C. Matunaga, and G. Gomes; for Singapore, Messrs. D. C. Alexander, S. Khiamel, and H. H. Lunt; for Batavia, Mr. W. F. Gantvoort; for Port Said, Messrs. Salim Hodor, Shehim Holor, and Berthold; for Marseilles, Rev. R. Duwez, Messrs. Auguste Guerin Lewis, and Gustave Heiner.

Per *Manila*, for Manila and Australia, Mr. and Mrs. Bauschar and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Elgar and baby, Miss Vetter, Miss M. A. Reid, Messrs. Cremer, C. Ott, R. Macpherson, F. Bremer, Swuchart, E. Krockenberger, P. Solzman and W. Brinamann.

Per *Zieten*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. L. Schmidt, Messrs. C. K. Ngman and par y, R. S. Buck, E. Siebs, B. Siebs, C. da Ruz, T. E. Bingham, E. T. F. Scott, J. Bandow, F. B. Jacob, L. A. G. Franco, T. Thomson, T. B. Maguire, Yamada and Kanoko; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Turncha, Mr. H. Hamada; for Kobe, Mr. Revel; for Yokohama, Mrs. Voretzsch, Messrs. O. Vockers and Paul Wichmann.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Jones, Mr. and Mrs. M. Star Dougherty, Mr. and Mrs. F. Jansen, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Masters, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Deaves, Mr. and Mrs. S. Orton, Mr. and Mrs. Peoples & 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. F. Galli and child, C. Clon-t and Mrs. W. C. Rivers and 2 children, Mrs. Miss and Master McCune, Miss and Miss Kirtland, Mrs. M. Smith, Mrs. J. White, Mrs. Kelly, Misses M. Hackett, A. Deaves, I. Swan, & A. Perigel, Messrs. H. B. Pond, F. H. Ford, F. Hauders, Jose Herrera, A. Fapia, G. W. Brydges, D. R. Jewell, C. O. Ratcliff, W. R. Rosenkrans, D. W. Betts, L. Brian Roxas, F. E. Rabb, Martin Smith, T. A. Walter, J. Haynes, J. Kirtland, S. W. O'Brien, E. L. Deaves, H. O. Duvendack, V. Castillano, P. Miller, W. H. Anderson, M. L. Stewart, H. Rokushima, Martin Dy Bonjoi, and P. Buckley.

Printed and published by BESTRAM AUGUSTUS & Co., for the Concurrence, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 181, Fleet Street, E.C.